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7 December 1984

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IRANIAN PRESIDENT KHAMENE'I VISITS DAMASCUS TO EXPLORE 'NEW PATH'

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 395, 15 Sep 84 p 23

[Article by Marwan al-Mahayini: "Khamene'i in Damascus; Syria Focuses on Pan-Arab Struggle Against Zionism; Iranian President's Visit to Damascus Seems To Have Produced, According to Observers in Syrian Capital, New Path for Relations Between Two Countries"]

[Text] Damascus--It has not been difficult to notice that the recent tour by Iranian President Ali Khamene'i, his first tour of the kind since he assumed the presidency in Iran, has carried in its most important and comprehensive aspect the same objective carried by President Hafiz al-Asad's latest tour. This is because both countries want to bolster the tendency that is hostile to the U.S. imperialist and Zionist schemes in the area and to confront these schemes. There is no doubt that the union treaty announced by Tripoli and Rabat has provided an important incentive for the two said tours, considering that the Libyan Jamahiriyyah is a pan-Arab ally of Syria, despite the temporary and tactical problems engulfing this alliance. Libya is also a friend and a companion of the Iranian Islamic revolution, despite the problems existing between the two regimes, beginning, but not stopping at or ending, with the issue of the fate of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

President Khamene'i's choice of Damascus as the starting point for his tour has been a reflection of the extent, depth and importance of the relationship binding the two countries. But as it has become evident, Syria, which puts the Arab-Zionist conflict and its requirements ahead of its duties, takes into its principles and constant consideration the pan-Arab bonds of this conflict. This is why the observers note that Syria has been able through the Iranian president's talks in Damascus to highlight this consideration despite all the negative features engulfing the joint Arab action. Syria, which has exerted major efforts to prevent an expansion of the scope of the Iraq-Iran war, still believes that it is possible to find a way out of this mad war which has drained the resources of sisterly Iraq and of friendly Iran and has obstructed the utilization of these resources in the arena of the fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy.

Regarding this aspect of the Syrian-Iranian talks, the Syrian side has received firm Iranian assurances that Iran has absolutely no ambitions on Iraqi territory and absolutely no regional ambitions, that it does not plan to keep a single inch of Iraqi territory and that there will be no territorial problems if the war ends.

But how will the war end?

Iran still believes that it has absolutely no problem with Iraq and that its conditions for ending the war are well known. The joint Syrian-Iranian communique issued on the visit has been content with allusion and has avoided dwelling sharply on this sensitive issue. It has focused on the points which Damascus views as more important and of greater priority in the Arab-Zionist conflict, in confronting the Israeli-U.S. onslaught, in dealing with the Lebanon situation, in bolstering the joint confrontation against U.S. schemes of domination and in developing bilateral relations to serve the two countries' interest and the interest of the joint confrontation.

The general tone of the communique reflected considerable Syrian success in drawing Tehran toward the Syrian line, especially toward two points: first, the priority of the conflict with Zionism and of establishing just and lasting peace in the area on the basis of liberating all the occupied Arab territories and of securing the firm rights of the Arab Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. The second point is the Lebanese point and Iran's support for Syria's efforts and its backing for the national unity cabinet to achieve concord, to establish security and to enable the various Lebanese sides to coexist on the soil of the homeland with an understanding insured through the desired and necessary political reforms which the national unity cabinet is trying to insure.

As for bilateral relations, the talks have underlined the determination of both countries to move forth in bolstering and developing them in the various spheres. Twenty-four hours before President Khamene'i's departure from Damascus, a high-level Syrian technical delegation arrived in Tehran, headed by the minister of industry.

But observers in the Syrian capital have noticed, contrary to the circulated reports of the Western agencies, that the military aspect of bilateral cooperation was little discussed during the talks. Dust, the minister of the Revolutionary Guard, and Shirazi, the commander of the ground forces, left Damascus after the first session of talks in order to precede President Khamene'i to Libya and Algeria.

The Syrian official circles' praise for the outcome of the visit covers the aspect which Syria considers the most important, namely underlining the importance of the common struggle to liberate the Arab territories, condemning the attempts to expand the Iraq-Iran war and condemning the U.S. plot in the Suez Canal and the Red Sea and its use of the mines to spread U.S. military influence in the area.

There are two observations that are worth noting in analyzing the outcome of the first visit made by President Khamene'i to the outside world: the first pertains to the Iranian situation itself and is embodied in the fact that Khamene'i himself has begun to hold the dossier of foreign policy. The second observation pertains to the Iranian role in the area, namely Iran's readoption of the idea of imposing international sanctions against Israel, including the renewed demand for dropping Israel's membership in the United Nations.

DAMASCUS TALKS DEAL WITH ISRAELI ELECTIONS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 396, 22 Sep 84 p 13

[Article: "Lebanese Concord and Israeli Cabinet in Damascus Talks"]

[Text] The Lebanese situation and the makeup of the new Israeli cabinet has monopolized the interest of political and diplomatic circles in the Syrian capital.

Insofar as the Israeli cabinet is concerned, Damascus believes that its make-up is a new and clear sign of aggression, especially since similar cabinets have been formed in Israel only as a result of a premeditated intent to commit aggression. The structure of this cabinet, which includes four former chiefs of staff, former ministers of defense and a number of military men, has come as a result of concessions made by the Labor Party on positions to which some Arabs and people concerned with the area's peace had attached big hopes by virtue of these positions constituting perhaps the beginning of a better Israeli stance, even though the Ma'arakh is no less covetous of Arab land than either the Likud or the Labor. In this regard, a prominent Syrian official said: "The current Syrian-Arab activities are a continuation of our serious concern with Arab solidarity and of the Syrian endeavor to establish a strategic military balance with Israel." He added that "what Syria is currently doing at the Arab and Lebanese levels seeks primarily to close the Lebanese dossier as a prelude to difficult and prolonged efforts which Syria has decided to continue to exert resolutely to achieve an effective Arab confrontation against the Israeli plans of aggression which are supported by the United States."

As for Lebanon, there have been continued Syrian contacts to bolster and support the Lebanese concord cabinet. The idea of holding cabinet retreats has been welcomed by Syria, and Damascus has received numerous delegations and has continued to exert its efforts through the various channels in such a manner as to entrench security and to implement the provisions of the cabinet statement. Last Monday, Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt held lengthy talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on the various aspects of the situation in the Lebanese arena, on the pending and disputed problems among the Lebanese factions concerning the various security, political and administrative issues and on the issue of the occupied south.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that an agreement in principle has been reached on putting an end to all provocative statements by all sides and to deal with the developments with goodwill, with open hearts and with a positive spirit with the aim of making it easier to enact all that the Lebanese factions have agreed upon and to reach the desired concord in accordance with the statement of Karami's cabinet.

8494

CSO: 4404/42

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SYRIA ON LEBANESE SECTARIANISM--A prominent Syrian official has assured a European dignitary he met recently that Damascus is determined to "purge Beirut and Tripoli of the radical religious cells that obstruct the security process if these cells are not convinced by dialogue and by peaceful means to put an end to their destructive military activities." It has been learned that the latest Iranian mediation is the final attempt. The European dignitary emerged with the impression that Syria has the sincere intention and definite desire to help the Lebanese regime in its pacification efforts and in closing the security dossier and opening the political dossier. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 396, 22 Sep 84 p 12] 8494

AL-ASAD-POLISARIO MEETING--Informed Arab sources have said that during his latest visit to Algeria, President Hafiz al-Asad reached more than one agreement with President Chadli Bendjedid. These sources noted that the Syrian president intentionally received during his presence in the Algerian capital the president of the Saharan Republic as a signal that Syrian support for the POLISARIO Front may be an alternative to Libyan support. These sources said that Damascus expressed its readiness to compensate the POLISARIO Front for what it had been receiving from Libya prior to the union with Morocco. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1456, 28 Sep 84 p 8] 8494

CSO: 4404/42

ISTANBUL PATRIARCH INTERVIEWED IN CANADA ON ARMENIAN ISSUES

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 26, 27 Oct 84

[Interview with Archbishop Shnork Kalustian, Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey, by B. Zobian in Toronto; date not specified]

[26 Oct 84 p 1]

[Excerpts] As is known, His Holiness Archbishop Shnork Kalustian, the Armenian Patriarch of Turkey, began a tour of Canada and the United States after completing his pilgrimage to the Holy Echmiadzin, where he participated in ecclesiastical work as the head of the Canons Commission. After visiting Montreal the archbishop arrived in Toronto where he stayed a week. We had written about the Holy Father's visit, his masses and the gatherings organized in his honor in our previous editions.

Taking advantage of His Holiness' presence in Toronto, we asked him to grant us a special interview for MARMARA's readers to convey to all Armenians the particulars of his work and to tell us about the purpose of this long and exhausting trip.

Most of the interview was held in our home, where we were honored to receive him, and the remainder was held in the living quarters of Surp Evran Church where the Patriarch stayed during his 1-week sojourn in Toronto.

Patriarch Shnork responded to our proposal with his well known good nature and gladly replied to our questions.

Question: Holy Father, we know that you began this current tour on 10 September by first visiting the Holy Echmiadzin. Can you tell us how and when this tour was planned and about the nature of your work in Echmiadzin?

Answer: We were committed to go to Echmiadzin. We used that opportunity to tour America to raise contributions for our needy schools.

We visited the Holy Echmiadzin at the invitation of His Holiness Catholicos Vazken I to participate in the work of the Canons Commission, which has been appointed by the Catholicos to review the Draft Constitution of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church. We headed the commission, and the other members were Archbishop Diran Nersoyan from the United States; Archbishop Sion

Manugian, the Prelate of Jerusalem and the Chairman of the Supreme Spiritual Council; Bishop Nerses Bozabalian, Secretary of the Holy See of Echmiadzin; and Vartabed Mesrob Krikorian, Delegate from Central Europe and Prelate of Armenians in Vienna. In our opinion, the draft which was submitted to our review must form only one of the chapters--probably the first chapter--of the Canon of the Armenian Church. Consequently, we renamed the draft as the "Administrative and Hierarchical Structure of the Church of Armenia." We held lengthy conferences daily for two weeks, and we succeeded in reviewing the document submitted to us while making major changes in it. We prepared a canonical work consisting of 10 subdivisions and 86 articles, and we submitted it to the Holy Catholicos. We believe, however, that it is essential to review this document one more time--and we plan to do that next summer--in order to put it in its best possible form before submitting it to the final approval of the Episcopal Council. The Episcopal Council meeting which was scheduled to be held this year has been postponed to 1985 or perhaps even 1986.

The only reason the Episcopal Council meeting was adjourned is the fact that the canonical document is not yet ready. This document will be the principal item on the agenda of the council meeting, and it is the Episcopal Council which will finalize the form of the document and approve it.

Question: What would you like to say about some of the articles and comments that appeared in certain papers on the eve of your departure from Istanbul?

Answer: It is evident that various misplaced and baseless charges were leveled against the Catholicos of All Armenians, the Catholicos of Cilicia and our person. Nevertheless, our statement before our departure about why we were going to Echmiadzin and America made a good and positive impression on the public opinion in Turkey. Even the state television reported about the purposes of our trip.

Question: If I am not wrong, these papers condemned the Holy Catholicos for allegedly encouraging terrorist acts abroad. How do you respond to these charges?

Answer: Yes, these false charges and assumptions were published in certain papers. However, the absolute truth is that the Holy Catholicos has expressed his opposition to terrorism on several occasions. During our intimate conversations in Echmiadzin, he referred to these allegations and reiterated that he opposes and condemns all forms of terrorism.

Question: Could you please give us a concise report on the state of our schools [in Turkey] and the need to help them?

Answer: Currently, we have 23 schools in Istanbul with slightly less than 5,000 students. Five of these schools are high schools which also incorporate middle schools. Four of them are middle schools incorporating elementary schools, and the remainder are elementary schools incorporating kindergartens. We are having difficulties in finding teachers for elementary schools because according to educational laws all teachers must be certified by government teacher training schools. Unfortunately, however, currently there is no teacher training school in Istanbul, and Armenian parents are unwilling to send

their daughters who wish to become teachers to teacher training centers outside the city. We had a start on this issue last year and this year when we could send three teacher candidates to the teacher training center in Edirne and we could arrange for them to live together.

Today, the principal difficulty of our schools is the problem of balancing their annual budgets. School expenses have risen disproportionately as a result of inflation. Furthermore, we have to raise teachers' salaries continually to keep them in parity with teacher salaries in state schools and to insure that they can make a decent living, which they are fairly entitled to. Our parish councils are making a superhuman effort to make ends meet with their swollen school budgets. It was for the purpose of helping them and reducing their burden to some extent that we felt the need to embark on a tour of cities in Canada and the United States to secure gifts from Armenians living in those cities for this important and vital educational matter. The annual tuition of a student in Istanbul is, on the average, \$100, an amount that not all parents can afford. As a result, every one of our schools have students who do not pay any tuition. Furthermore, our boarding schools are entirely free, and the annual cost per student is about \$600. Our goal is to build up a principal sum through contributions and to dedicate the annual interest return on that principal to our educational mission.

In North America, local churches collect the contributions we need and send them to their corresponding diocesan prelacies in New York, Los Angeles and Montreal.

[27 Oct 84 pp 1,4]

[Excerpt] Question: Having learned about the primary purpose of your tour, we would like to know about your impressions of the Armenian community of Canada.

Answer: In this visit we found that the Armenian community of Canada has grown substantially. This growth mandated the establishment of a separate diocese for this community, and that became an official fact a few days ago when the first prelate of the community was elected. We congratulate the electors and the elected and we hope that they lead this diocese with love, peace and cooperation for the welfare of everyone. We are convinced and we hope that old problems will be examined with new perspectives and new solutions will be found for the welfare of both the administration and their constituency.

Question: You arrived in Montreal last Thursday, on October 4, and you stayed there for only one night. Why was this change? There are more Armenians--particularly Armenians from Istanbul--in Montreal than in Toronto. Do you not think that they could have been of more help to you?

Answer: We were unfortunately forced to stay for only a short time in Montreal. Our original plan was to say Holy Mass in the Armenian Church in Montreal on October 7 and to convey to that community the blessings of the Holy Catholicos and our own message. But we had barely enough time to address the day after our arrival a small group of Armenians from Istanbul who did their best to help us in our mission--and for that we commend them and we are grateful--but our expectations were not fulfilled in Montreal and we were deprived of the chance

to come in contact with wider masses of people. We hope that Montreal's prelate and his administration, who could not influence these unfortunate set of events because of upcoming diocesan elections, will continue this fundraising effort by any means they see fit, so that the people who did not have the chance to contribute their generous gifts for this educational mission can fulfill their and our wish to raise the desirable amount.

Question: What are your views regarding the Armenians of Toronto?

Answer: We had the opportunity to stay longer in Toronto. The massive presence of the people and the overflowing crowds filling the church and the adjoining hall during Holy Mass on Sunday were an indication of this community's love of church, the strength of its faith and its care and respect for one of the hierarchical seats of the Armenian Church. Here, we had the opportunity to come into contact with large and small groups of people and we learned about major problems that have arisen in the community for some reason or another and that are awaiting solutions. We visited one of the local Armenian schools and were very happy to hear their prayers, songs and recitations in Armenian. We conveyed to them the fatherly blessings and love of the Catholicos of All Armenians. When we heard that there is another Armenian school in the same area, we expressed the wish to visit that school as well, but we could not do that because the principal of the school was absent for important reasons.

The purpose of our mission was crowned more brightly in this city. However, if our personal encounter with the people had come immediately after the Holy Mass in the church yard, it would have been far more productive. Because at our gathering at the Armenian General Benevolent Union hall we did not have access to even a microphone to make ourselves heard to everyone. In any event, we would like to publicly thank all those who were present and who surpassed our expectations by raising a satisfactory sum for our mission. May God reward them all.

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CSO: 4605/34

CONTROVERSY OVER JEWISH-ARMENIAN RELATIONS IN TURKEY

Turkish Paper: Jews Are Against Armenians

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 29 Oct 84 pp 1,4

[Text] "Jews Declare Campaign Against Armenians." Under this headline, GUNES writes in its yesterday's edition:

The Jewish-American community has harshly criticized Armenian allegations. This stance taken by American Jews was welcomed by Jewish citizens of Turkey. The religious leader of Jews in Turkey, Chief Rabbi David Asseo, declared that violence is entirely alien to the character of the Turkish nation. Asseo said:

"The Old Testament says: 'Pray to God for the prosperity of the country you are in.' Praying means to help. Turkey is our homeland. We are trying to contribute our share of work for the progress of this homeland. The Jewish-American community has declared that it supports Turkey. We welcome this their stance. To defend the Turkish viewpoint and Turkish sovereignty is our foremost duty. We pray to God for Turkey's supreme success. Those who charge that there is a minority problem in Turkey do not know Turkey very well. We have always lived like brothers with Moslem Turks. There has never been a conflict between the two communities in the past 500 years. Violence is alien to the character of the Turkish people."

Jewish Authorities Deny Allegations

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 2 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] The Chairman of the Turkish-Jewish Rabbinical Advisory Council, Jak Vaysit, contacted the chairman of the Turkish-Armenian Patriarchal Advisory Council, Dr Garabed Arman, yesterday afternoon and officially refuted the report entitled "Jews Declare Campaign Against Armenians" that was published in the 28 October 1984 edition of the daily GUNES.

According to the explanation given by Vaysit, the religious leader of Turkish Jews, Chief Rabbi David Asseo, was interviewed by GUNES last week, but he did not say anything or make any references that would imply the disposition suggested by GUNES' headline. Vaysit said that the Rabbi's Office is thus trying to prevent any misunderstandings or misconceptions that may arise between the two minorities.

Dr Arman replied that the Armenian community is closely familiar with the Chief Rabbi and that it is certain that the said newspaper headline is the result of imprudent journalistic hastiness.

Dr Garabed Arman thanked the advisers of the Chief Rabbi's office for their kindness.

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CSO: 4605/32

ABU GHAZALAH DISCUSSES SECURITY, RELATIONS WITH U.S., SUDAN

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Oct 84 p 3

[Interview with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, by Sana' al-Sa'id: "Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah Tells AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 'Egypt's Security Considerations Are Based on the Changes around Us; Our Relations with the United States Are Most Satisfactory and Our Cooperation Is Excellent"; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] At the present time, what is your military strategy for this area based on?

[Answer] 1. There is no doubt that security is the objective of any strategy in any civilized country. As we speak about security, we must determine two facts:

--Security is relative; it depends on what may pose threats to that security. We must realize that military weakness does nothing but invite aggression.

--The changes that affect security are numerous, and they develop rapidly. The judgments and considerations we make have to change along with these changes so we can confront them, I mean, come to grips with them.

2. Accordingly, we devise our strategy for security as follows:

--We follow a deterrent strategy, and we acquire deterrent capabilities to prevent aggression against us.

--We have forces that are suitable to ensure the realization of our security objectives. We also try to develop the capabilities we have to keep them suitable to changes that occur in the situation around us and the threat that we may be exposed to. There are two bases for doing this.

1. To make the magnitude of our defense and its requirements consistent with the achievement of our strategy; and

2. To concentrate on developing quality to ensure effectiveness instead of concentrating on quantity.

--We maintain a high level of preparedness among the troops; these troops can counter any threats quickly.

--We work continuously to improve the quality of fighters and their performance, to improve their living conditions and [to strengthen] their sense of affiliation with the armed forces so we can be assured they will perform with competence.

[Question] In order for an armaments effort to be suitable and complete, it has to be carried out in the context of strategic relations. To what extent do you put this notion into practice in your dealings with countries that export weapons, particularly the United States of America?

[Answer] It is known in all countries of the world that weapons agreements that are entered into by any country have to have the political sanctions and the approval of the countries that produce those weapons.

The answer to your question is simply this: We keep track of modern weapons and of developments in those weapons, and we request sanctions and approvals so we can obtain detailed data about selected kinds of weapons to meet the needs of our armed forces. After conducting detailed studies on those weapons, evaluating them and conducting experiments on them locally and approving them, we begin making agreements [to purchase those weapons] in accordance with the plan.

There are no restrictions, limitations, pressures or conditions placed on our relations with many other countries. This is our policy. It pleases me to assure you that the United States has consented to meet our requests, no matter how advanced they are. Our relations in that regard are most satisfactory, and our cooperation is excellent. We share expertise, studies and opinions too without any restrictions or pressures.

[Question] Now that the U.S. role in the area has been diminished, is the military alliance between you and the United States still a close one or has it changed?

We Reject Alliances

[Answer] One of the foundations of our foreign policy is a policy of non-alignment and even-handedness in our foreign relations with all international parties. Furthermore, we reject alliances in all shapes and forms; therefore, there are no alliances between us and any international or regional powers.

The conditions that are being experienced in our area at the present time are conditions that require us to work continuously to maintain an appropriate defense capability. We have to develop that capability and make it suitable to the changes in the situation around us.

Because we are a developing country and do not have adequate financial capabilities that would enable us to modernize our weapons and our equipment overnight, we are trying to provide an appropriate defense capability from different sources worldwide.

The United States is considered one of those sources, especially since it is offering us easy financing terms, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, it has agreed to provide us with the kinds of weapons we choose and to give us grants that we do not have to pay back.

U.S. Military Aid

[Question] It is being said that U.S. military aid to Israel will double as of the beginning of next year. What about your dealings with the United States? Do you expect an increase in the aid that is granted to you?

[Answer] The process of determining the amount of military aid that the United States offers every year to countries is lengthy and complex. The determination does not become final until it is approved by the U.S. Congress. It would be difficult to make any predictions. We are, of course, hoping for an increase in this aid as long as the resources for that exist.

Egypt learned a few lessons from the 1973 October War about arming its armed forces. The most important of these lessons was that of diversifying the sources of its weapons and not relying on one source to get those weapons that our armed forces need. Thus, no foreign power would control the freedom with which Egyptian decisions are made.

[Question] Discussions about a strategic alliance between the United States and Israel have been stepped up. What has been the effect of that on you at the present time?

[Answer] Israel is still trying to strengthen aspects of cooperation with the United States so that the agreement can be put into effect. It is taking advantage of the international and regional climate to achieve its objectives. One of those objectives is an economic, political or military agreement. On our part, we are trying to encourage the United States to adopt an even-handed policy in the area so that none of the local parties would be tempted by power to resort to military force to solve its problems.

The Decisive Factor

[Question] It seems to some people that you are in the process of modernizing and improving Egypt's air defenses according to a program in which France is assuming the lead. What are the programs that have been agreed to with France in this regard? Does this mean that France's air force has become the foundation on which Egypt's air force will be modernized and improved?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the air force is considered the principal deterrent force in our age. The air force is the decisive factor in ensuring and executing any defense operations. The air force has many costly needs: airplanes have to be purchased; technical maintenance and repair work have to be ensured; and the necessary weapons for those airplanes have to be provided. In addition, developments in the world are not confined to airplanes and their capabilities; rather developments are made on all systems and weapons and on all airplane capabilities. Such developments are being made in a way that is astonishing and unimaginable. I would not neglect to mention that battles are decided on the basis of these airplanes' capabilities, resources and equipment.

Therefore, it behooves us not to be stingy with our air force. We must use all our capabilities to strengthen our air force so that it can stay in step with the age. We must do that regardless of the costs or sacrifices that have to be made.

The policy of diversifying the sources of our weapons is being applied. We have airplanes from eastern sources, and we have American airplanes that constitute the backbone of our air force. We also have European helicopters (French and British), and we are trying to obtain from every source the most modern airplanes that are available with the most capabilities.

Regarding your question about France, you know that France is considered one of the most important, or rather the most important airplane manufacturing country. The aviation industry is considered one of France's most important industries. In the past years we made agreements to purchase French Mirages, and these airplanes are considered to be a principal keystone of the air force.

Taking into consideration our excellent relations with France, an agreement was reached with that country to reinforce our air force with different Mirage airplanes: Mirage-5's, alphajets, Mirage-2000's and Gazelle helicopters. Not only is France providing us with these airplanes, it is also helping us establish joint industrial projects so we can have this strategic industry in our Arab country to serve Egypt and its Arab sisters. These programs between Egypt and France are making progress according to plan. Consequently, I can say that besides the programs we have with the United States and with eastern countries, the programs we have with France are considered among the most important industrial programs we have to make the needs of the air force available.

The Mirage 2000

[Question] When will the first shipment of Mirage 2000 airplanes that have been agreed upon with France arrive? Why didn't Egypt try to acquire the Super Etendard airplanes and the Exocet missiles?

[Answer] The first shipment of Mirage 2000 airplanes is scheduled to arrive some time in 1985. The Mirage 2000 is considered one of the most advanced multi-function airplanes in the world. The Super Etendard is a fighter airplane that is used primarily by the navy. It is used against navy vessels, and it is equipped with a modern navigation and targeting system that allows it to use Exocet missiles against ships. But rest assured: the Mirage 2000 airplanes that we will be acquiring will have multiple functions and equipment superior to that in the Super Etendard airplanes with regard to navigation and targeting. These airplanes can carry and launch air to surface Exocet missiles. They can also carry more efficient missiles. Rest assured that we are always using our resources to try to acquire the most efficient weapons and the greatest capabilities that are available.

Developing the Armed Forces

[Question] Defense spending in the countries of the area has tripled in a matter of years. What about Egypt? It's been rumored that economic pressures forced Egypt out of its military conflict with Israel. [Is that true?]

[Answer] In this regard we must know that Egypt is rebuilding and developing its armed forces. In addition, it is modernizing the weapons it has and the equipment it had acquired from eastern countries. It is developing and increasing the efficiency of its weapons and equipment. Egypt's armed forces are being

developed in accordance with a considered plan whose demands are being met either through U.S. grants, other loans or whatever means become available from resources and budgets. Egypt has never held back on providing the requirements of its armed forces, its protective shield. Therefore, I am affirming that these rumors are partly correct. Egypt is staying in step with progress, and it is keeping up with the most modern equipment and weapons in all the world. Egypt is trying to acquire these weapons so that the armed forces can be a strong shield for Egypt, responding as soon as they are called to protect the country, to act as a deterrent force and to prevent aggression. We must know that efforts are being made continuously in the armed forces to understand these developments, to receive training and to acquire the required efficiency. The countries of the world have testified to the competence of the Egyptian fighter and his ability to absorb the technology of the age.

[Question] It is being said that Egypt is currently spending more than 3 billion dollars for defense; is that true? Is it true that you said that this level of spending would continue as long as Egypt was being threatened by the Gulf war and by al-Qadhdhafi's ambitions?

[Answer] I stated previously that security is a relative matter and that it depends on the changes that are taking place around us. Our security considerations have to be based on these changes, and our security objectives have to be clear. There is thus no alternative to acquiring those capabilities that would enable us to achieve our security objectives. Otherwise, we would be careless with our nation's and our country's resources. I would have to say that we would have no economic or social development, and Egypt would have no political clout without the military capability that can protect it and ensure its security.

[Question] The area is dominated today by multi-party or bilateral coalitions. The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Libyan-Moroccan Federation are among those new coalitions. Can such small entities hold out militarily against attacks on their security to defend the security of the area?

[Answer] Each country is the best judge of its position and its supreme interests. Therefore, any comment I would make about such matters would constitute intervention in the domestic affairs of these countries.

Egypt and Sudan

[Question] Since there is a trend to form regional alliances, why doesn't Egypt try to establish at least one regional alliance to confront enemies that are lying in wait for it in the region?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the nature of international relations, the changes in those relations and contemporary experiences as well have shown that there is no place today for small entities. Talks about the independence or the free will that any country might practice without outside pressures will continue to be irrelevant rhetoric unless it is reinforced by a capable military power that can enforce its will and an economic power through which these countries can liberate their will from the influence foreign powers exercise over them because of economic need.

Everything that has been heedfully experienced in the east or the west after World War II has succeeded in proving this to be true in the international community. This has been proven in different areas, particularly in the economy. The biggest example of that is the European Market. Most European countries who are outside that market, like Portugal and Spain, are trying to join it.

As they embark on their experience with integration, Egypt and Sudan are trying to benefit from the advantages of these experiences in the areas of the economy, politics, society or security. This does not necessarily mean that the integration effort is aimed against any one or any region; it is rather an effort to strengthen all the powers in both countries so that national objectives can be achieved as a step toward the achievement of Arab cooperation.

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OPPOSITION LEADER MURAD INTERVIEWED ON STATE OF EMERGENCY

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Oct 84 p 4

[Interview with Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad, opposition leader and deputy chairman of the Socialist Labor Party, by 'Amr 'Abdallah: "Continuation of the State of Emergency Is an Indication of the Government's Weakness"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The government of the National [Democratic] Party has succeeded in taking the People's Assembly by surprise and getting a majority agreement in extending the state of emergency for a period of 1 and ½ years, a matter which causes all of the opposition groups great displeasure. On this point an interview was conducted with Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad, one of the pillars of the opposition and the deputy chairman of the Socialist Labor Party.

[Question] Do you believe that the opposition, in its various groups, has effectively confronted the imposition of the state of emergency?

[Answer] Any decision made through the People's Assembly--in which the government relies on the enormous majority in the recent challenged elections--does not endow the opposition with an efficacious role in the Assembly. The reason is that the result is ultimately contingent on the voting. With regard to what is being said to the effect that things are published, and as we know, the daily papers--dubbed as national--publish only very rarely, and very little of, the statements that are made by the opposition Assembly members, which does not fully express the opposition's views. Hence, the opposition's role in influencing the decision on the state of emergency could not bear the required impact.

There can be no proof of what I am saying more eloquent than the fact that the question of the state of emergency and its extension into the 4th year was submitted by surprise, without having previously figured on the agenda. Moreover, the government daily papers had reported the day before that this question of extension would be raised a few days later. Nevertheless, the People's Assembly members were surprised with the matter being raised, considered, and settled on the same day, although the matter was grave.

The state of emergency was extended by 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years, in lieu of 1 year. This extension indicates the desire to keep the government in power under the aegis of the sword of terror that hangs over the citizens' heads. This state of affairs induces the citizens to feel that they are being humiliated and that their dignity, freedom, and sanctuary are being jeopardized under the emergency law without any justification, at a time when we were hoping that we will take more steps toward greater democracy.

[Question] Would a strong government apply an emergency law?

[Answer] Naturally, the answer would be in the negative. This is because a strong government, which enjoys a mutual confidence between itself and the masses and which is based on a solid popular foundation, does not resort to such exceptional and undemocratic methods. On the contrary, such a government would depend on the people's confidence and on the democratic spirit to consolidate its stances and implement its will by convincing the masses through known democratic methods and means.

[Question] The opposition truthfully upholds its viewpoints and constantly tries to defend them. Nevertheless, the opposition has proved unable to convey its views to the vast majority of the people. Is this due to the shortcoming on the part of the opposition, or on the part of the people?

[Answer] In fact, the fault is a joint one. This is on the one side. There is an error committed by a third party, which is the attempt that is being made by the authority itself to suggest to the people that the opposition is futile, or to create an atmosphere of lack of confidence in the opposition's role and to weaken the citizens' spirit of faith in democracy.

When it comes to the people's mistake, then it is due to the citizens' failure to join the ranks of the political parties that demand the people's rights.

With regard to the opposition parties, they are required to engage in further serious work, inclusive of popular participation, to put pressure through legal means on the government so that it will heed the citizens' rights in accordance with democratic principles and with the human rights that are universally recognized. The opposition political parties are also required to close their ranks and to cooperate among themselves so that they can become more energetic and be able to be more effective in confronting the government when it wishes to make a decision which is not in the interest of the broad, popular base.

[Question] How far can the reaction of the opposition parties and their resistance to the imposition of the state of emergency go?

[Answer] We must make our way toward the protection of the people's rights and freedom's without regard for the state of emergency, adhering to what the government officially promised in the People's Assembly. We will submit to the court any departure, no matter how small, from this promise until we can make the imposition of the state of emergency ineffective.

EGYPT

QUESTIONS ABOUT MUBARAK'S PRESIDENCY ANSWERED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Oct 84 p 1

[Editorial by Musa Sabri: "Questions from Canada"]

[Text] Canada's international broadcasting agency contacted me by telephone after newspapers throughout the world published the interview I conducted with President Husni Mubarak on the occasion that 3 years had passed since he assumed the office of president.

The principal question around which the telephone interview was conducted was this: "How did you find President Mubarak?" That telephone interview was broadcast in Canada and in the United States that same evening.

I said, "The president was in good health. I got tired of asking questions for over 1 hour, but he did not get tired. In fact, he was quite willing to answer more questions."

The female announcer said, "Did you sense that he had confidence in himself? Did you sense that he was confident he could solve the [country's] internal problems?"

I said, "Yes. His answers were quick and full of confidence and optimism."

She said, "To what do you attribute that confidence and optimism when there are numerous problems?"

I said, "Because as he said he had found the right way: he is telling people the facts; he is adopting a scientific approach; he is using planning to confront problems; and he is adhering to those promises that he can keep."

She asked, "What in your opinion is the greatest problem he is facing?"

I said, "The economic problem. It is a worldwide problem. However, we have old traces of this problem. The president does not promise the people that these problems will be solved overnight. What matters is that he started on the right track: he started by defining the problem and making plans to correct it in a 5-year plan, 2 of which have already gone by. Preparations are now being made to draw up the second plan."

She said, "Didn't you sense that the president was upset about the grave events that took place in Kafr al-Dawwar?"

I said, "No, there were no grave events in Kafr al-Dawwar. There were attempts made to create disturbances that ended that day. These attempts were made by elements who are known for their communist tendencies. These people wanted to take advantage of an error that was made in the application of some decrees which had to do with social security for workers."

She said, "Does the president find religious extremism dangerous?"

I said, "Danger always comes from repression. That matter has been dealt with in a scientific, democratic manner. A dialogue was conducted on television and at many gatherings with people of all faiths. When people are allowed to hear and express different opinions, a healthy climate is created."

The broadcast interview about these matters continued. The female Canadian announcer ended the interview by saying, "We hope to talk with you 1 year from now to get your comments on a new interview you would conduct with the president on the occasion of 4 years elapsing since the day he became president. We wish the president continued success."

On the previous day I had attended a meeting of the parliamentary committee of the National Party. At that meeting all general subjects had been discussed over a period of 3 and a half hours. Representatives had commented on the decision to produce an improved loaf of bread for two piasters. The comments that were made were appropriate. The first comment objected to the reduced weight of the loaf of bread that is sold for one piaster. The second comment had to do with the fact that that loaf of bread could not be found in areas where the improved loaf of bread was sold. The third comment had to do with the fact that no real improvement was evident in the new loaf of bread. The minister of supply responded to these comments by saying that production of the improved loaf of bread did not exceed 16 percent of total bread production. The minister promised that proper production of this loaf of bread will be fully monitored.

President Mubarak joined in the discussion and declared definitely and decisively that the government had to be truthful in making promises. Therefore, the 1 piaster loaf of bread had to remain unchanged. Its weight must not be altered. Vigilance had to be exercised in control by the government and by the people so that no one could deliberately hide this loaf of bread or sell it for 2 piasters. Also the availability of the 1 piaster loaf of bread in popular neighborhoods must be closely watched and ensured.

Then the president asked that the price of shortening not be raised one millieme, and he asked that the price of macaroni sold to the masses not be increased.

This is what I wanted to state on the record so that the people can watch the implementation of these decrees. The government alone cannot have someone watch over every baker and at every street. People must prove that they are watching what is being done.

AL-TALMASANI DEFENDS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, WAFD COOPERATION

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by 'Umar al-Talmasani: "Wafd and the Brotherhood, Once Again"]

[Text] In a group of the righteous, one of them said: I know when God remembers me. His audience were surprised at his audacity and they demanded that he furnish an explanation of what he said. The man suddenly silenced them all by citing a verse from the Holy Koran. He said: Have you forgotten what Almighty God says: "Remember me and I will remember you?" Therefore, why are not the party writers preoccupying themselves with mentioning God, and then the good that their parties offer to this homeland's benefit? Is this not more useful than engaging in this overwhelming uproar of fabricated accusations and the trading of caustic terms which, I had hoped from the depth of my heart, they would keep their pens aloof from? I have read an article written by a writer whose articles I had grown accustomed to reading with appreciation. But I was surprised by his attack against the Muslem Brotherhood because of its cooperation with the Wafd in the present elections. I emphasize that I did not expect such harshness on his part. Perhaps he does not forget that, in some of his past writings, he had done the Muslem Brotherhood members justice and denounced all what Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had done to them.

I do not know why the cooperation of the Wafd Party with the Muslem Brotherhood in the election battle has strained the nerves of the party writers. Have not these writers said that the Wafd is the name of a party without partisans, and that the Muslem Brotherhood members are disputing cliques? If they really believe in what they say, why does this cooperation frighten them? Why do they not leave the Wafd Party and the Muslem Brotherhood suffer their fate at the hands of the people, who have risen up around them? This is if the people have forgotten the stands of the Wafd Party members on the Banks of the Suez Canal against the imperialists! This is also if the people have forgotten the struggle waged by the Muslem Brotherhood members in Palestine, and the fact that Fu'ad Saraj-al-Din--the present leader of the Wafd Party--had supplied the people with arms during their battles with the imperialists! This is if the people have forgotten all these things and, therefore, the road has opened for the other parties to enter

the People's Assembly through fair elections in which candidates are not elected by a 99 percent margin--elections which are held by none other than a cabinet in power and governors belonging to the same party of the ministers! Nor are these elections blemished by any pressure, enticement, cajolry, and intimidation. If all the circumstances are opportune in this manner, why, therefore, have their nerves been aroused in this way, and why do they engage in making such harsh criticism and in preferring charges against honorable persons, while all the people know the standing of these persons in relation to these accusations?

Why do not these gracious writers leave the Muslem Brotherhood and the Wafd Party alone until the process of oblivion is completed from all its angles, and so that, while casting their votes, the voters will forget that there is something called the Wafe Party or something called the Muslem Brotherhood? All the people, in their cities and villages, have nothing to talk about other than the cooperation which, God willing, will sweep away all the precautions, bans and obstacles that are now being erected to preclude the success of the Wafd and the Brotherhood. I never thought that the cooperation of the Wafd with the Brotherhood would make one of the free writers forget that he was one of those who had denounced the parties law. Why is he now reminding people of this tyrannical law which is unparalleled on the world level? Does this gracious writer accept that this law be applied to the Muslem Brotherhood members, so that they would be sent to prison with life or temporary imprisonment terms at hard labor? Swear to me by your honor, of which I know you are proud, would you really accept that we be taken to jail to serve life or temporary imprisonment terms at hard labor? Please do not trouble yourself with answering. My confidence in the serenity of your conscience tells me that you would not approve of our imprisonment in any way. Therefore, why do you engage in harming people who, until recently, you considered victims of oppression and tyranny?

All the indications are that the Wafd will emerge, not as a strong opposition, but as a clear-cut majority, God willing. Therefore, why do we not leave room for reconciliation? Why do we sever the ties of amity and patriotism that link us together? Why do we destroy all the means for reverting to a unity that would save this homeland from devastating dangers, while you best know the consequences of such dangers? Do we place the triumph of one party over another above the homeland's safety? The Muslem Brotherhood's papers never attacked any one with such harshness, not even when the AL-DA'WAH magazine was the organ of truthfulness and decency in the opposition ranks. At that time, the magazine had millions of readers all over the world. The Wafd Party papers have not gone in their criticism to the extent to which you have allowed your pens to go.

Gentlemen: You are accountable for your writings to God, the strongest of the strong, Who has given you knowledge, as well as the pens with which you write and the intelligence which flows into letters on the

pages of newspapers and magazines. You will be made to reckon on a day when fame and power will be futile. You are Muslems, and as such, you are aware that man is accountable for all his words and actions--he is rewarded good for good, and evil for evil. You know that God orders justice, charity, perfection, love and cooperation and shuns evil, oppression and aggression.

I imagined that the election is an opportunity that God gives to all the parties--an opportunity in which all the parties would submit their useful plans, as well as the solution that they prescribe for the persistent problems. I also imagined that competition would be confined to this noble scope that instills reassurance in the hearts of the people. The people would then know that all their parties are pre-occupied with alleviating their troubles and removing the nightmares of grinding crises. However, this method will produce only one result, that is, the people will lose all their confidence in all their parties as the result of these revealing accusations. The people would wonder: Is there no party or body left in Egypt appropriate for representing them in the People's Assembly? Have all the parties become agents, treasonous, and exploitative? What remains for Egypt after all this?

Gentlemen: The sincere presume that others are sincere too, and the clean view all the others as clean and do not think ill of people, with the exception of those who harbor evil in their heart. Therefore, place yourselves where you like to be. When it comes to me, I still think well of you and place you above everything tending to harm your loyalty to your homeland, the truthfulness of your writings and your belief in the reality of what you write.

God lead us all onto the orthodox path.

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COMMENTATOR SUPPORTS FAIR TAXATION

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Oct 84 p 11

[Editorial by Mustafa Amin: "An Idea!"]

[Text] We have no right to object to a 2 percent income tax on incomes that exceed 18,000 pounds a year. This is a small tax that those who can afford it ought to pay it for the sake of the overworked and the oppressed. It is the duty of the strong to extend a helping hand to the weak, and it is the duty of those who have the means to help the needy. We must state for the record that both the government and the opposition stood together in support of this tax. There are national positions that are quite inappropriate as a context for trying to outdo others. The sentences that were handed down in al-Jihad case were just and merciful. People in various circles were satisfied with them, and even the defendants and their families applauded them. The 190 defendants who were found innocent by the court were released immediately. That indicates our total respect for justice. In other cases when a court would come out with an innocent verdict, the defendants would have to stay in prison until the military governor signed the court ruling or an order for their arrest was issued by the military governor. There have been many prisoners ruled innocent by the court and sent to detention on the same day where they languished for many years.

All this has been changed; it has been altered and brought to an end. Every proper step that is taken to respect human rights is supported by the people. Cruelty, tyranny and oppression are not signs of strength; they are rather signs of weakness and frailty. A strong government is one that responds to the masses, not one that clashes with them and tries to impose its will on them by using the whip and the cane. When the government rushed to oppose attempts that were made to raise the prices of some basic goods like oil, sugar, rice, macaroni, cheese and others, that opposition to price increases was only a demonstration of its respect for the people's wishes. The people had been angered by the fact that prices of these goods were being tampered with.

Unfortunately, political parties do not have an adequate presence in Egypt's mainstream of life. It is not enough for political parties to be featured on the pages of newspapers; they must rather be spearheading the masses, informing them one step at a time of their opinions and letting them take part in all the country's events and problems. It seems to me that if the National Party had had a strong presence in the streets of Kafr al-Dawwar, what the union committee of

Kafr al-Dawwar's textile plant called "a disturbance and vandalism carried out by a few" would not have taken place. The fact that parties are not featured on television and radio is responsible for the fact that government and the masses do not see eye to eye. We must know that the masses are tired and exhausted. They find guarantees in justice and safety in integrity. They strongly reject favoritism and illegal gain, and they denounce waste. The masses welcome every measure that is taken to purge the country of thieves and highway robbers. They resist every attempt to abuse influence, and they refuse to be forgiving of those who amass millions by exploiting people and trading in their livelihoods. They will not forgive swindlers and crooks who set up fraudulent schemes by means of which they steal money that belongs to orphans, widows and poor people. They will not forgive those who usurp land and apartments that belong to others and can find no deterrent measure whereby the rights of those whose rights have been usurped can be restored.

We must be prepared for years of austerity so we can begin an age of prosperity.

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ECONOMIST CRITICIZES TAXATION POLICY, URGES REFORMS

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Oct 84 p 5

[Article by Dr Ibrahim Dasuqi Abazah: "Taxes for the Poor Only"]

[Text] The government's revenues are dropping constantly.

Furthermore, the current taxation system does not achieve social justice. It is enough to say that the government has been unable to levy 60 percent of the yield of direct taxes!

Examples of these direct taxes are the real estate tax, the general income tax, the commercial and industrial profits tax, and the free professions tax. This signifies that a large proportion of large income earners are totally or partially evading the payment of taxes. This also means that the state has lost 60 percent of its revenues expected to be received through these taxes!

All these things lead us into questioning the justness of taxation. The reason is that taxation should inescapably seek to achieve equality in the distribution of financial burdens among the taxpayers, each according to his capacity, that is to say, according to the real estate he owns or the income he earns. If, ultimately, the poor alone shoulder the brunt of taxation, social justice is negated, the state's resources weaken, and the budget is disturbed.

This is the actual state of affairs of taxation in Egypt in its present organization. This is because, in an important segment of its revenues, the government depends on indirect taxes, such as taxes on consumer commodities, customs duties, and the circulation tax. This kind of taxation equally affects the rich and the poor. The reason is that all those who purchase locally made or imported commodities on which tax has been imposed shoulder the burden of taxation, regardless of their financial power. Furthermore, all those who execute transactions or register documents for which the law requires registration or revenue stamps must inevitably pay tax by paying registration fees or by buying revenue stamps. Thus, indirect taxes are considered as weighing heavily on people in the low income bracket, even if these taxes are imposed at low prices or at progressive prices varying according to

the kind of the commodities and the degree of their importance. Furthermore, indirect taxes affect commodities and activities that are indispensable to the citizens in most instances, and they lead to an increase in the cost of living and to a cut in an important segment of the citizens' income.

Our government finds that this kind of taxation achieves for it an abundant yield of public revenues, without the government having to exert any efforts or incur any trouble. However, the collection of the other kind of taxes, that is, the indirect taxes, requires a highly efficient and equitable tax department. It also requires a high level of taxation consciousness among the masses of taxpayers.

I need not teach the government a lesson in this respect. The government is well aware of the condition of its financial department that collects direct taxes from big taxpayers. The government also knows well the circumstances leading to total or partial direct tax evasion, particularly when it comes to taxes on general income, commercial and industrial profits taxes and free professions taxes.

There is not even one taxpayer in Egypt who does not find a thousand opportunities for concealing his tax liability, or for diminishing this liability, now that we have experts in evading tax and usurping the state's dues. Therefore, it has been indeed surprising that the government, because of its desire to increase its revenues, has resorted to direct taxes and to raising taxation on general income by a rate of 2 percent, as well as imposing other taxes on firearms licenses, passports, and the operation of vehicles in the hope of receiving revenues amounting to 400 million pounds.

The government should have first brought its financial department under control and found a solution for the "Tax Authority," which is in charge of collecting direct taxes. The reason is that this authority, including its employees, means, and legislations, is in need of urgent reforms. It has lost its effectiveness and its ability to keep up with the big taxpayers. It has also lost most of its prestige in confronting some of those occupying the financial throne in Egypt. It has become easy for these people to pay just what they want to pay out of their taxes, particularly since the doors of corruption are open--from one side or another--to bargaining and to tax evasion.

Furthermore, the government ought to have ended the mafia of parasitical activities that have multiplied in the recent years--and the daily income of just one such parasitical activity now equals the prime minister's monthly salary. By these parasitical activities I mean the mobile vendors and the private brokers, and these can now be counted by the millions spread out in our major cities.

What the government is now doing to augment its revenues from taxes is futile for checking the budgetary deficit and achieving an equitable taxation. However, what is efficacious in increasing the tax yield is for the hand of reform to reach out to the financial department and the tax legislation. It is also effective to find practical solutions to keep abreast with the sources of new revenues that have been generated by economic open-door.

I do not think that the government is unaware of the importance of the revenues that are realized by these people, or of the defect that has befallen the distribution of revenues because of these people's activities. However, I reckon that the government will keep with its habit of disregarding these basic reforms, just contenting itself with the imposition of new taxes that niether appease nor satisfy any hunger!

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DRUZE RELIGIOUS LEADER DISCUSSES DECENTRALIZATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1457, 5 Oct 84 pp 14-15

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra by Shirbil Zughayb: "Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra to AL-HAWADITH"; date and place not specified]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, spiritual head of the Druze sect, stays at his headquarters in Ba'dharan, the Shuf, and only goes out on special occasions and when it is absolutely necessary.

Since telephone contact is cut off, not only with Ba'dharan but with the entire Shuf area, we had no other alternative but to go to the mountain to meet the Druze spiritual leader.

Less than 2 hours after our departure from Beirut, we reached Ba'dharan after going through Dayr al-Qamar, al-Mukhtarah and 'Amatur. Following our apology for showing up without an appointment because we could not call, His Eminence welcomed us and asked us our names. It was natural that my colleague, Ahmad al-As'ad, should go first and, faltering a little, I stated my name. His Eminence looked at me in surprise and asked: "What area do you come from? I said: "I am from Kasrawan." The shaykh fell silent for a moment, looking at me. He then shook his head and said: "You mean you are not an Orthodox as I imagined you to be?" I said: "No, I am a Maronite."

With some amazement, he said: "Maronite, and you come here to the Shuf? How did you venture to come to Ba'dharan?" I said: "I am coming to my home Your Eminence." The shaykh said with a sigh: "You are welcome."

After a round of exchanged looks, I asked His Eminence if there was any problem for a Maronite to come to the Shuf and he said: "Of course not, as you can see. Were you exposed to any danger in our area? But I ask you in turn if a Druze from our area can visit Ashrafiyah [i.e., the eastern and Christian district of Beirut]? We are not against the Maronites, but rather against the political Maronite who has laid claim on everything, leaving us only table crumbs. Nonetheless, we were satisfied. But for this kind of Maronite to go so far in its thinking as to pull us out and throw us into the sea, we will not let that happen. You have taken our politics, economics, commerce and civilization, what more do you want from us? Anyway, we are better than you are because if we rule, we are just and our history attests to that. As for you, you are oppressive in your rule, as your actions demonstrate."

When His Eminence stopped talking for a little, I said to him: "What are the problems preventing the return of the nonpartisan Christian refugees at least to their villages and homes?" He replied: "There is no problem. However, sound reality dictates that we explain the facts and not take pleasure and trade in idle talk. There are those who are exploiting the refugee issue and saying things that cannot be supported with facts. How can we evict a Druze who has lost his house from his present dwelling before rebuilding his [original] house? Reason dictates that we rebuild his house first so that he can go back to it. We cannot throw him out into the street and say 'please leave this house.' It is a difficult situation. When they agree to rebuild the houses of the Druze, we can then convince them to return to their reconstructed homes. But we cannot persuade those whose houses are still torn down to leave the houses in which they are living. Even if we tried, they will not do it. We want practical things, not just idle talk. The Druze homes must be built before those of the Christians so that they can return. We have no objection to this.

[Question] Minister Walid Junblat gave his word of honor to let the refugees return to their homes?

[Answer] No one is preventing the refugees from returning, but there are some basic rules that must be observed.

[Question] Who should undertake the reconstruction process you are demanding?

[Answer] The government should undertake this process.

[Question] Is the government able at present to undertake this operation and only in the mountain?

[Answer] It is begging from the whole world, but is only able to arm people and create problems.

[Question] There are those who believe that reconstruction must include all areas together within the framework of decentralization. What do you think?

[Answer] I believe so too.

[Question] Is Your Eminence for decentralization in the Druze mountain or for the mountain as it was before?

[Answer] The decentralization for which I am calling is for all Lebanon and not the mountain alone. Lebanon has administrative districts which can be subject to the decentralization system. The district ordinarily does not include one group to the exclusion of others. The district I have in mind is that which is known to all. Decentralization must achieve growth, justice and equality among the inhabitants of one district and all the other districts as well. This means that the Shuf inhabitant has the same right to state funds for development and construction as the Kasrawan inhabitant is enjoying right now. Likewise, the Rashayah inhabitant has as much right as the Beirut one and the same thing goes for the south and the north.

[Question] Is decentralization designed for the administrative aspect only or for the administrative and political aspects together?

[Answer] When they become convinced of the principle of decentralization, they must take the country's interest into consideration and act accordingly in the application of decentralization, be it the administrative or political kind. These things are open to discussion because nothing can stand in the way of Lebanon's partition except decentralization. Henceforth, I will not accept that the Kasrawan people take three-quarters of the treasury and give the remaining quarter to all the other areas. This is neither fair nor equitable. We want justice in Lebanon to be pervasive and all inclusive. Decentralization relieves people of the burdens of moving from one area to another to take care of their official business and, consequently, it achieves human justice, growth and prosperity for all areas. It is inconceivable to have one prosperous area, such as Juniyah for example, while my area is devastated. This is not justice.

[Question] The decentralization you are demanding must be applied under any system?

[Answer] I am calling for decentralization within the scope of the Lebanese Republic under the Lebanese flag. In other words, this flag must flutter over all the various Lebanese areas.

[Question] But within what political system?

[Answer] This is not important. We are interested in justice and equality among the citizens and the regions.

[Question] Some are calling for the abolition of political sectarianism as a prelude to change. Do you think this is possible?

[Answer] This is old stuff and those who advocate this are cantankerous, and I do not wish to go into this kind of chicanery now. Although some consider it a useful measure, I think the problem does not lie here. Lebanon's problem is greed and monopolization, not sectarianism. Its problem lies in the politicians' exploitation of sectarianism and by all sects, I might add.

[Question] You have demanded that the army stationed in Hammanah take charge of security in the mountain. Does this mean a veiled rejection of other army brigades taking over some of the security in this area?

[Answer] This is not a veiled objection, but rather one "for everyone to see," because we have tried the army that is outside Hammanah, the eastern army in particular, but all we got from it was mistreatment, ruin, destruction and murder. This is an army we cannot accept.

[Question] Do you believe in the possibility of the army regaining its past cohesion?

[Answer] We hope there are good intentions to reunify the army to make it for everyone. I wonder why the government refuses to keep the Hammanah army where it is and work instead to bring in an army from outside the region.

[Question] Perhaps because it is a one-sect army.

[Answer] What about the eastern part? Do the Druze live in Ashrafiyah? No. Therefore, the army in the eastern part is also from one single sect.

[Question] Can a joint army unit be formed to take charge of security in the mountain?

[Answer] We hope so, but I do not know if it is possible. If they are sincere and well-intentioned, they may achieve this joint unit in the army. However, so long as they wish to accomplish their plans and designs which are prejudiced against us, this, of course, is their sin.

[Question] Whom do you mean Your Eminence?

[Answer] The Lebanese Phalange, naturally, which has prepared a factional racist army to dominate and behave as it pleases. This is absolutely inconceivable and we do not accept it.

[Question] How do you describe your relationship with the Lebanese regime?

[Answer] I am always with the regime when it is fair and just.

[Question] How about your relationship with the president?

[Answer] It used to be too. However, in light of his actions, I am now more reserved in this relationship.

[Question] What kind of actions?

[Answer] When he sends the army to annihilate us and brings in the American army and its fleet to shell our villages, kill our children and break us up, this sort of behavior compels us to reexamine our relations with him.

[Question] It is being said that you are calling for the president to step down before the end of his term. Is this true?

[Answer] I am for his finishing his term, provided he can be fair and just and to everyone, as he says. However, we have not so far ascertained that he is indeed for everyone. We wish him to be for everyone and what do we care who the president is. As far as I am concerned, there is no difference between one president and another. I am not too much of a fanatic when it comes to this. I am fanatic in my demand for a just ruler who is scrupulous enough to treat people equally. This is all I care about.

[Question] Does that mean you are for the Maronites keeping the presidency or do you demand that it be taken away from them?

[Answer] The constitution did not give the presidency to the Maronites. The constitution gives all the people all the rights. There is a tradition, however, which we have observed and do not wish to upset, but there are limits for fairness and justice. If this tradition is turned to the advantage of one

sect against the other sects, naturally we cannot let it go on. I used to urge that the president remain a Maronite to reassure those who were frightened. But to be a Maronite means he must feel with all the people and not with the Maronites alone, and he must be a president of all the Lebanese in body and soul. This is what we want and ask for.

[Question] Is there a Druze cause as such or is it part of the whole Lebanese cause?

[Answer] We as a sect have our beliefs and traditions. This does not disclaim, however, that we are pure Lebanese in Lebanon and that our country is Lebanon and Lebanon's cause is our cause.

[Question] You have been accused of seeking to establish a Druze state to include the Druze of Lebanon, Syria and Israel. How do you reply to that?

[Answer] Those who accuse us of this are the ones who seek to set up a Maronite state. I have sent a letter to the Holy Pope identifying those who were after the establishment of a Christian national homeland in Lebanon and after domination. They are the Maronites and I say it openly. This is an old design of theirs frankly voiced by Bishop Mubarak who submitted numerous memorandums in this regard. Hence, we are not the ones thinking of establishing sectarian mini-states. They are raising such an accusation against us at a time when they are working for this end. We have been and still are Lebanese. We ruled Lebanon for hundreds of years and our rule was just. Fakhr-al-Din was the one who said religion is for God and the country is for everyone. Our primary concern is for Lebanon as a country. As Druze in this country, we have our beliefs and traditions, just like the other sects. Freedom of belief is guaranteed by the constitution.

[Question] How do you assess your personal relationship with the Druze of Israel and Syria?

[Answer] They are our brothers, be they in Israel or in Syria. They are our children and our kin. We have mutual social relationships, intermarriage, kinship and everything else. However, this has nothing to do with politics; it is purely a social and doctrinaire relationship.

[Question] How are contacts made between the Druze of Lebanon and those of Israel when the borders were closed?

[Answer] Not at all. We had no contacts with the Druze of Israel when the borders were closed. We are the only ones who did not make contact. You the Christians used to go to Jerusalem and your spiritual leaders used to pray there. As for us, we had not been there since 1948 until recently when the Israelis came here, so the Israeli Druze started coming. This is a fact, and we feel with them as our kin and our brothers, but it is not a political feeling, but rather that of family and belief.

[Question] How true is the claim that the Israeli Druze spiritual leader was undertaking a political endeavor to bring your viewpoints and those of the Israeli government closer together?

[Answer] This may be so, but political rapprochement never happened. As a citizen in Israel, he may have entertained the idea of political rapprochement with them. As family, we do not stay away from them, but as policy, we do not deal with Israel.

[Question] There is much talk about military clashes in West Beirut. What will your position be should such clashes actually occur?

[Answer] These rumors are being spread by exploiters and trouble makers. We hope you have nothing to do with them because we will not "do it" while you will.

[Question] Who do you mean by you?

[Answer] The easterners.

[Question] You talk to me as if I were the leader of the easterners!

[Answer] (When he stopped laughing) I am saying these outbreaks are in the interest of the exploiter and the profiteer. We are calling for Shiite-Sunni-Druze-Muslim cohesion and it is in our interest as a whole to keep communications open because we are facing a common enemy, the political Maronite at present.

[Question] Some are expressing optimism about a solution to the Lebanese crisis by the end of the year. Are you optimistic?

[Answer] God is capable of everything and we hope it will happen. These are mere wishes, but reality does not so far reflect such optimism because the political Maronites, namely the Phalange and the Lebanese Forces, are still proceeding with their designs and do not want to get rid of the war.

[Question] Syria says it is determined to close the Lebanese folder. Are you optimistic about that?

[Answer] When Syria says this, it must have some specific givens. If this is Syria's wish, we will not say no, especially if it meant saving us from the bad situation we are experiencing because the perpetuation of the whirlpool of destruction is not in anyone's interest in Lebanon.

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CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ELECTS NEW SPEAKER

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1457, 5 Oct 84 p 17

[Article: "Why Is Kamil al-Asad Allowed What Kazim al-Khalil Is Not? Open Cards Battle Over Parliamentary Presidency"]

[Text] When Kamil al-As'ad agreed to the abolition of the "electoral keys" in the voting process in the chamber of deputies, he said he wanted to liberate the presidency elections from pressures and pledges so that deputies may be free to vote for the candidate of their choice. Speaker al-As'ad did not know, however, nor did he suspect then, that the law that abolished the "keys" would be used against him in the elections for chamber speaker. The present political climate suggests that some active parties are seeking to remove al-As'ad from the number two presidency and he will not be able to capture some parliamentary votes he used to hold on to because of the "keys."

The campaign against speaker al-As'ad began with a communique issued by the command of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party organization in which it called for the election of a new speaker, opening the door to the Shiite candidates where- by the number went over five. It is impossible to predict who will stay in the campaign and who will win the session to be held next Tuesday, 16 October.

There are those who believe, however, that this campaign against al-As'ad has buttressed his support, particularly among the Christian deputies who feel there are pressures and illegal meddlings in the elections of the legislative power.

However, this theory is repudiated by al-As'ad's opponents who believe that their support in the Christian ranks is no less weighty than in the Moslim ranks. They even believe that speaker al-As'ad's positions towards President al-Jumayyil, notwithstanding the signals the palace sent to the president of the legislative power to tone down his campaign against him, played their role in the estrangement between the two presidents. These people add that President al-Jumayyil deep down did not want to abandon al-As'ad at first and tried more than once to discuss this matter with Syrian President Hafiz al-As'ad. But the speaker of the house did not offer any steps, however, to soothe the situation towards the president on the one hand, and the Syrians on the other.

As for the background of the Syrian position toward speaker al-As'ad, one Shiite candidate says that no Shiite deputy's patriotism should be questioned

and no Shiite deputy should be accused of throwing himself in Syria's arms. Everyone will remember that in 1977 Kazim al-Khalil was the strongest candidate against al-As'ad and had the campaign wrapped up with a 54-vote majority. The Syrian position at that time played a major role in getting Kamil al-As'ad to the number two presidency, a matter that prompted the then-president, Elias Sarkis, to intervene directly with Kazim al-Khalil to persuade him to withdraw his candidacy in favor of al-As'ad. But Kazim Bey would not do it unless a presidential communique in that regard was issued, and this is what actually happened.

The candidate for the number two presidency goes on to say "why did they not lament democracy then as they are doing now and why was Syrian intervention in Kamil al-As'ad's behalf a natural thing not devoid of excitement while intervention not to his advantage is intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs." Moreover, those defenders of Kamil al-As'ad's patriotism, have they forgotten his stance in 1977 on the "52 document" when he insisted in that secret session held by the chamber of deputies on his vehement objection to the term "Lebanon is an ultimate homeland" mentioned in the document. Did those defenders forget his pro-Palestinian stances and how he openly stated during the heated battle between Amal and the Palestinian resistance that the Shiite rifle must not be raised in the face of the Palestinians.

"As regards the president of the republic, speaker al-As'ad produced a list of approaches in the same manner he has adopted ever since the 17 May agreement negotiations all the way to the ministerial private meetings and passing through parliament's approval of him upon the president's personal urging, so that when parliament gave him what he wanted for the sole reason of ridding the country of Israeli occupation and returning the South to the charge of Lebanese legitimacy, his excellency refused to sign it right after parliament's approval, making the parliament look wasteful of the country's territory while the speaker is working for its liberation.

"But if they wish to make me the scapegoat, this shall never pass. If they are serious in fighting one inside and outside parliament through pressure and other means, I am ready to issue a statement withdrawing my candidacy, making myself a hero instead of being a means to their personal ends."

People close to speaker al-As'ad say that he is serious in what he says and if things reach the point of no return, he naturally will not run and the parliamentary bloc may decide to nominate deputy Hamid Dakrub for the house leadership. But those people seem confident of the result if things proceed on their democratic course because speaker al-As'ad, as they say, starts off with 54 votes whereas all his opponents put together start off, in all cases, with nonparliamentary support.

But what about the anti-al-As'ad front?

This front has not resolved matters within its ranks. There are three cavaliers, each trying to get to the presidency in his own way. Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn announced a lengthy platform in which he pledged to liberate the south; to restore parliamentary democracy; to safeguard freedoms; to expedite ratification and implementation of administrative, political and constitutional

reforms; and to reexamine legislative ordinances, in addition to bolstering parliament's legislative and executive branch watchdog role. He considered the Syrian role as constructive in retiring the war file in Lebanon and in restoring its unity, sovereignty and independence and liberating it from Israeli occupation.

Deputy al-Zayn proceeds from the significant parliamentary support he enjoys and will not withdraw from the campaign under any circumstances or consequences. Deputy Husayn al-Husayni, on the other hand, considers himself the more likely winner and believes that no deputy who supported the 17 May agreement stands a chance of reaching the number two presidential seat, according to 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, or else all are equal in their patriotic and unpatriotic stances alike.

Al-Husayni believes the battle has almost been decided in his favor and will not withdraw unless the candidate in whose favor he withdraws enjoyed unionist attributes, namely the reunification of Lebanon through the restoration of parliament's role to its previous status. He also considers himself a non-fancier of candidacy.

The third candidate who is running between the "dots," as they say, is deputy 'Ali al-Khalil who takes off from the possibility of a Ba'abdah-Damascus understanding on a middle-of-the-road candidate to face Kamil al-As'ad not objectionable to Syria and not imposed on President al-Jumayyil, but rather the fruit of understanding between the two regimes. In return for the Syrians' rejection of speaker al-As'ad, some say President al-Jumayyil may reject deputy al-Husayni's candidacy, thus increasing the chances of deputy al-Khalil considerably on the premise that he enjoys President al-Jumayyil's friendship and is not "vetoed" by the Lebanese Front or Syria. President Franjiyah told him he had not given his word to anyone and was looking at things from a patriotic and not an emotional angle. And, with all his negative feelings towards speaker al-As'ad because of his past positions, he would not oppose him because of these stances, but solely because of his position on the 17 May agreement.

As for the matter of unopposed candidacy in these elections, this possibility has not been brought up at all because speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, his enthusiastic support of this matter notwithstanding, and despite untiring efforts by deputy speaker Munir Abu Fadil urging the deputies to support speaker 'Usayran for the number two presidency with a view to sparing the country a jolt, can do without such a prospect. Government circles believe there is no possibility of replacing speaker 'Usayran by any other Shiite should he be elected speaker, on the assumption that the succession process will open wide possibilities before government expansion, something neither President Jumayyil nor Prime Minister Karami wants.

As for the bloc positions, they are largely ambiguous and the public statements do not represent their true essence because the "electoral key" will have no role this time around and each deputy can satisfy everyone and can sell each candidate his wares.

Finally, the battle for the house speakership is assuming both considerable and at the same time dangerous conditions this time around because should it be confirmed between speaker al-As'ad and one other candidate, it will be "by a nose," in racing parlance, and the parliament and Lebanon as well will have to pay up claims they can do without.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES LEBANON'S MONETARY CRISIS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1457, 5 Oct 84 pp 53-54

[Article by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din: "Security, Political Stability in Lebanon Sure To Check Dollar Madness; Government Official: 'Mafia Behind Pound Weakness'"]

[Text] Karim Fatti is from a middle class family. He usually gets his weekly allowance every Saturday. Last week, Karim stood before his father at the usual time, saying: " I do not want my allowance for this week in Lebanese pounds, I want it in dollars!"

This simple incident has more than one meaning and significance. Not only does it indicate Karim's awareness of the decline of the Lebanese pound's purchasing power and the rise of the value of the dollar in local markets from one moment to the next, it also demonstrates that this rise, even by a few piasters, has become uppermost in the minds of Lebanese big businessmen and financiers and ordinary modest-income people as well.

What disturbs the Lebanese people is the constant rapid fall of the Lebanese pound and the rumors that expect the value of the dollar to reach more than 9 pounds. Pessimists believe that the value of the dollar will hit the 10 pound mark in the near future.

The flourishing monetary economic crisis in the stock exchange of Lebanese crises has become the most momentous and manifold problem. People in the know say that ordinary security plans are no longer adequate in facing this crisis. Prime Minister Salim al-Hus, the economic expert, believes that the economic and social crisis outweighs the political and security one in its fatal effects on the very roots of the country and is the permanent stain in Lebanon's sullied garment. He is of the opinion that these crises must be dealt with before the security and political matters, or at least side by side with them, especially since the Lebanese economic structure is on the verge of total collapse. This is what threatens the worst consequences and greatest losses.

This monetary storm is sweeping the whole world, roaring and becoming more violent without threatening the very being as in the case of Lebanon. The truth is that the world monetary crisis stemming from the rise of the dollar is one active factor in the Lebanese economy and in the fall of the Lebanese

pound, albeit not the only cause. The monetary and economic crisis in Lebanon has several causes and is different from the world crisis.

The high fever of speculation is the American dollar that has set historical records in the price of the dollar against the British pound, the French franc, the Italian lire and the Belgian franc and has pushed it to the 3 Deutsche mark level for the first time in 12 years, has spurred the German central bank, "Bundestock," to step in quickly and sell over \$200 million in 1 day, and has prompted the British minister of finance, Lord Lawson, to stress that there was no monetary crisis in the true sense and that the British government was not at all thinking of devaluating the pound sterling.

The reasons for such monetary fluctuation and for the rise of the dollar are well known. The most important reason, of course, is the high interest rate for the dollar, American growth, increased unemployment in the western world and the labor and political crises that have shaken more than one European city while the American ally is unable to afford its European allies much sympathy and concern in this year of presidential elections, and 7 weeks before these elections. The economic factor and a strong dollar are two elements in President Reagan's campaign that many observers believe constitute the safety valve that will guarantee his reelection. Add to that the American administration's belief that the allied countries must pick themselves up and boost their own economies and that the United States is not solely responsible for the confusion in the world monetary markets.

The truth is that experts expect this confusion to go on and linger, especially since projections in the world of finance hold a measure of logic, notwithstanding their inconsistencies with the market indicators concerning American economic growth. The west European and Japanese economies have hitherto failed to reach the growth rate close to that of the United States.

It has become clear that the fall of other foreign currencies against the dollar reflects in reality the inability of the western industrialized countries to catch up with the economic growth rate in the United States as well as their failure to create labor and political climates that generate confidence in their monetary future before the onset of the new year.

The dollar, which has experienced a relative decrease in New York and European cities, did not fall at the same rate in the Beirut market.

During the last 2 weeks, the dollar in Beirut went from 696 to 723 piasters, registering a 20 piaster increase, or 2.84 percent, in 1 day. However, the last few days registered a relative stability in the price of the dollar, perhaps as a result of the semi-positive political climates and the resolutions issued by government-private meetings described by a ranking official as "better than nothing," but short of what the Lebanese people expect from the rulers and way below the minimum level that triggers hope and reassurance in their hearts.

The security and political factor is an active element in the deteriorating Lebanese pound crisis, but not the only one. In a meeting with a ranking Lebanese government official, who preferred to remain anonymous in the interest

of secrecy and credibility and so that the interview would not be embellished and adorned like the "newspaper talk," as he put it, AL-HAWADITH was able to obtain much information about what may be called the "dollar Mafia." But to preserve the secrecy of the investigation being undertaken by the prosecutor, AL-HAWADITH withholds the name of the economic and banking institutions and the official and business personalities who were named in this information. The story, from the beginning, as the ranking official put it, is that the Lebanese security and political crisis has been going on and rather intensifying for 10 years, coupled with a crisis of morality and exceedingly greedy people whose wealth is growing.

The official says that the reasons for the Lebanese pound crisis are many, foremost of which are the world reasons which cannot be mentioned here, and the local ones, at the top of which are the deficit in the balance of payments, which always showed a surplus. This year suffered an \$8 billion deficit and is expected to reach \$10 billion by the end of 1984. State debts in the amount of \$25 billion add to that the atmosphere of political disagreement and the absence of a ray of hope on the horizon. Such pessimistic climates add to the uncertainty about Lebanon's present and future and reflects negatively on the economic situation and, consequently, the strength of the pound.

The official focuses on the factor of a weak Lebanese economy in the various fields of industry, agriculture, commerce, banking and tourist services, and transit and port revenues, totalling 40 percent of the state's proceeds.

As for the "Mafia" that is playing havoc with people's pocketbooks, it is a by-product of the war in recent years while the speculation factor is an old and rather familiar story in the world of finance.

The official adds that the prosecutor has a specific and clear complaint against a number of Lebanese and Lebanese-foreign local banks and several economists and central bank officials.

The way the "Mafia" conducts its business is neither secret nor magical, but does indeed require serious cooperation by an important official at the central bank.

The "Mafia's" conduct of business means the purchase of dollars when the central bank offers millions of them on the Lebanese market. When a group of such people and banks move to buy dollars at a relatively low price and the dollar disappears from the Lebanese monetary markets, this "Mafia" rushes to offer the dollar at a price higher than that at which it bought it.

The other kind of speculation, to which the government must put a stop and which goes on between banks and individuals, occurs when an individual borrows from some banks hundreds of thousands of Lebanese pounds and converts them into dollars so as to sell them a week or two later, or even a month later, at a higher price, thus reaping huge profits which he shares with the said bank without any financing costs. This kind of speculation is legal in a free economic system such as exists in Lebanon, but in extraordinary cases (i.e., times) like these, the government must step in to protect the people by enacting emergency legislation.

Furthermore, the government must, according to the official, form an "operations room," including the Lebanese Bank governorship and a representative from the Ministry of Finance and the Banks Association who must be totally honest and impartial.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance must raise the interest on the Lebanese pound and enhance the Bank of Lebanon's positive and well-planned involvement in the protection of the pound. What is happening now is that the Bank of Lebanon and the Ministry of Finance act as though the one has nothing to do with the other and if representatives from the ministry and the bank meet and adopt certain resolutions, most of these are not enforced, if the opposite is carried out, that is.

The official stresses the confusion dominating the banking sector and the regulation of trading in the dollar in which the central bank gets involved sometimes.

One factor that can help strengthen the Lebanese pound, albeit relatively, against the constant rise of the dollar is obtaining low-interest long-term foreign loans and aid.

The official was intent on ending his discussion by saying "the Lebanese economy, first and last, has always had a strong and sound structure that enjoyed a budget surplus and a considerable money reserve. This is what inspires confidence in its economic future which was and still is a source of admiration for many world economic observers and officials.

After the aforementioned official, AL-HAWADITH carried the Lebanese pound worries and troubles to Camille Sham'un, minister of finance, to ask about the practical measures he deems necessary to put a stop to the dollar game, and about the official steps being taken to end this mafia's cycle, about the role of the central bank itself in checking this dangerous manipulation of the dollar's price and about what he thought of the manipulation charges levelled against the central bank. We also asked about the possibility of a Lebanese pound devaluation in the near future.

With some agony, not to say impatience, Sham'un said: "The first important thing is to create a climate of security and stability in the country, and more important is the durability of such security and stability. Political and security stability is what guarantees the stability of the Lebanese pound.

"The matter of the dollar 'Mafia' and the monetary market manipulation is in the hands of the prosecutor. We are awaiting the outcome of this investigation and the pronouncement of judgment against all concerned.

"The truth is that it is very important in these circumstances to appoint a governor and a deputy governor for the Bank of Lebanon so that the new governor and the new body may proceed to offer the necessary support for the Lebanese pound. The central bank has a principal role in the stability of the pound, including trading in the dollar if need be.

"The biggest worry imposed by the rise of the dollar is the high price of commodities which Lebanon imports in large quantities under circumstances forced by the war that has been going on for 10 years.

"Of course, the Lebanese merchant 'raises' the price before the dollar goes up against the Lebanese pound and the Lebanese citizen cries for help from the state and the conscientious people when the state does not protect the prices of medicine, let alone food, clothing and other things. Everything is allowed and forgiven under an open free economy. Only in Lebanon does the citizen lose even the freedom to live under a reasonable economic system."

Mr 'Adnan al-Qassar, president of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a short phone interview, told AL-HAWADITH: "The commercial situation in Lebanon is bad. The dollar, which keeps going up against the Lebanese pound, is bound to affect the rising commodity prices. We must not forget that the biggest concern of the Lebanese merchant is to move his goods and obtain monetary liquidity that eludes most merchants.

"This situation of the pound, should it persist, will lead to a higher cost of living brought about by higher prices of various imported goods.

"The Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry does not have any kind of control, direct or indirect, over merchants and industrialists. What we all have is moral control. We always get together to urge self-control, out of an obligation to the country and the people, and we always make all kinds of contacts with the government to stop speculation in the pound and to demand the appointment of a governor for the Bank of Lebanon."

In reply to a question about whether he believed there was a mafia dominating the dollar game which it utilizes to its own advantage, Mr al-Qassar said: "I have no proof of the existence of such a mafia. There is something, however, that raises doubt and many questions regarding this matter. There is more than one factor pointing to the existence of a mafia such as this."

The fact remains that traditional economists lean toward the well-known rule that says that what goes up must come down and that the dollar price madness is a temporary insanity which has to come to an end soon.

When the dollar starts falling, the American economy will witness a great change that will lead to higher inflation and a drop in investments [in the United States]. And until such time, President Reagan will remain the biggest beneficiary of the present stage of "madness."

12502

CSO: 4404/39

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN LEADER INTERVIEWED IN KHARTOUM

Khartoum AL-SAHFAH in Arabic 24 Sep 84 p 6

[Interview with 'Abd-Rabb-al-Rusul Siyyaf, a leader of the Afghan Mujahidin, by Rashid 'Abd-al-Rahim: "Applying the Islamic Shari'ah in Sudan Has Revived Great Hopes in Us"; in Khartoum, date not specified]

[Text] The first Islamic Conference of the Islamic Shari'ah in Sudan, currently being held in Khartoum, constitutes a large Islamic gathering of brothers of religion and creed, in order to study the problems of our Islamic world, in addition to getting to know one another.

It was appropriate for us to take this opportunity to talk with the leader of a revolution, which is by any standard, Islam's revolution in this century, a revolution that has used jihad [holy war] as a means to oppose the attacks of the tyrannical Communist invader against the world of the Muslims. Despite the paucity of its personnel and weapons, they, the groups of Mujahidin of Afghanistan, have never failed to offer martyr after martyr, in order to write in the blood of 1.3 million martyrs one of the largest epic battles of history. Muslims in our century are witnessing this, especially since the jihad movement in Afghanistan is an authentic movement in its powerful drive toward God and its choice of the principle of jihad and death. Therefore, filled with the passion of Muslims everywhere, who live with hearts filled with love and faith, we talked with the great mujahid 'Abd-Rabb-al-Rusul Siyyaf, head of the Islamic Federation of Mujahidin of Afghanistan.

He began by saying:

"You know that we are struggling and sacrificing ourselves, our money and everything we own for the victory of God's religion, the application of his shari'ah, the establishment of his justice, the supremacy of his word and the spreading of his call. In our capacity as mujahidin for God, whenever we hear of an experiment or a movement or a decision regarding applying the Islamic shari'ah, we rejoice, our hearts are tranquil and we hope one day to see the banners 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet,' waving over the entire world. When

we heard that the government and people of Sudan had made the decision, under the aegis and guidance of President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, to apply the Islamic shari'ah, we rejoiced at that, because the republic of Sudan has its foundation in Islam, its history in Islam and its glorious zeal in Islam.

"Therefore, it is not strange that this good country would apply the shari'ah in all aspects of its life; this was to be expected from this government and people. We praise God for that. When the Sudanese government began to apply the shari'ah of Islam, we considered it a blessed step. We considered it a salutary and glorious act toward reviving the Islamic shari'ah in practical reality, and reviving in our hearts considerable hope. We believe that the Sudanese people and government are taking their steps with all sincerity. We hope that, God willing, Sudan will prosper soon in Islam, and live under the banner of 'There is No God but God, and Muhammad is His Prophet.' Since we have undertaken these efforts on behalf of application of the shari'ah, we have prayed to God that He demonstrate the boldness of officials in government and the boldness of the people on this blessed path. Since we began to encourage this good work, we have prayed to God to bring us complete success in this regard."

Jihad of the Afghan People

[Question] Tell us about the jihad of the Afghan people?

[Answer] The people of Afghanistan have a glorious history of spreading the call and fulfilling the religious duty of jihad over the course of the years. Since the sun of Islam rose over the horizons of this country, Afghanistan began to act in the name of Islam and to carry the candles of Islam, in order to illuminate the Far East for Islam.

Afghanistan has played a glorious role in spreading the call of Islam on the Indian continent and in Southeast Asia. History has recorded the great heroics of Sultan Mahmud al-Qaruni and of Ahmad Shah, the first king of Afghanistan, in spreading the call and fighting the enemies of Islam. Our country, Afghanistan, has been considered a fortress for Islam since the beginning, and your brothers, the mujahidin who are resisting the red communist wave, despite the paucity of their resources and experience, have been able with God's help and support, to resist Satan's largest force in history. The mujahidin have nothing save their faith and belief. They operate on the premise of the true belief and faith in the oneness of God. They have trust in God, and they believed and still believe that victory is with God's help and that there is no victory without God's help.

They go forth on these pure and noble premises, with God's help, to stop the red advance, which threatens the world and which has not been content with invading Afghanistan, but rather intends to invade the Muslim world. We praise God that during these past few years, Afghanistan has been able to stem the communist tide and teach a lesson to the invaders.

[Question] What is the goal?

[Answer] Of course, you know that Russia's purpose behind the occupation of Afghanistan was two-fold:

1. To strike a blow at the Islamic movement in Afghanistan, because it was and still is a movement that shakes the foundations of atheism and the existence of falseness. Therefore, they wanted to annihilate the movement of the [Islamic] call and jihad in Afghanistan.

2. Their invasion of Afghanistan was aimed at turning it into a base from which to expand their colonialism east and west of Afghanistan. They wanted to use Afghanistan as an entry way into other regions, but Afghanistan stood fast and firm, praise God, in the face of this movement. Afghanistan's steadfastness is not just steadfastness without paying a price. On the contrary, its steadfastness cost the blood of 1.3 million martyrs for Afghanistan. At this huge cost, it was able to stem the red time. We pray God that He keeps us firmly on this path and in this blessed jihad, and that He supports us and enables us to establish His wisdom and repel the attacks of His enemies. Nothing is difficult for God.

Unifying the Ranks of the Mujahidin

[Question] What about the many efforts being made to unify the ranks of the Islamic jihad?

[Answer] You are aware that the jihad has many enemies. They are the enemies of Islam, communists, Zionists and heathen Buddhists, all of them fighting against this jihad. They constantly try to divide it with plotters who are famous for that, and they spend large sums of money for that purpose. There are many factors at work to break the unity of Muslims in Afghanistan, but despite that the situation is still going well. There are many efforts being made in order to maintain the unity of ranks. We pray to God that He will bring us success in that. God willing, we have great hopes that all the jihad forces will be unified shortly. Naturally, any work that man undertakes faces problems. Our federation faces problems, but it exists. We pray God that he will help us with all these problems, so that we can strike all the blows against the enemy with one hand.

The Battle's Resources

[Question] What about the resources of the Afghan revolution and the assistance that it receives from the Islamic world?

[Answer] All aspects of our material resources are in short supply, weapons, ammunition, supplies, food, expertise, doctors, technicians, shortfalls in all of this. However, with God's help and support, and if He is with us, we care for nothing else.

We constantly strive to gain the support of the Islamic nations and organizations. We pray that He will bring us success in that and will cause all Muslims to stand beside our people.

We do not receive military aid for this great jihad, but there is sympathy from some nations and donations from individuals of some nations. The gifts that we receive from Muslims do not exceed 10 percent of our needs.

The Jihad in Afghanistan

[Question] Would you tell us about the jihad in Afghan territory?

[Answer] The jihad's point of departure is now inside Afghanistan. It is centered in Afghanistan, and the jihad's bases are only in Afghanistan. There are exile assembly points and administration offices within Pakistan, but the jihad's bases are in Afghanistan. Praise God, the mujahidin control more than 90 percent of Afghan territory. They have fixed camps and bases, and strong bases from which to fight the enemy.

The invaders are supported by forces from some communist countries. We have information, documents and sufficient evidence about the presence of a large number of troops from many communist and socialist nations. We have prisoners and precise, full information.

The areas controlled by the invaders, which amount to 10 percent of Afghan territory, are not under the complete control of the invading forces. These areas are under attack by the mujahidin forces. However, there is no Afghan government in Afghanistan for us to overthrow. The government that controls these areas is based in Moscow. The fall of the major cities in Afghanistan cannot cause the downfall of the ruling regime. Usually, when the activities of the jihad reach the streets of the capital, this is a sign of the overthrow of the existing regime. However, this is not the case in Afghanistan, because it is not ruled by those who are permanently in Afghanistan, but who are permanently in Moscow.

Naturally, God will decide the matter for us, by ousting all the Russian forces from Afghanistan. Liberation is not far away, if God wills.

Some 90 percent of Afghanistan is completely in the hands of the revolution. It is fully controlled by the jihad movement, and these areas are only subjected to air attack. The people have returned to take up their lives during the air attacks. The gardens and farms are being worked during them. They do not form an obstacle for the normal course of events for the Afghan people.

[Question] Can you tell us about the size of the losses inflicted on the communist enemy?

[Answer] The losses sustained by the enemy are huge. So far, the mujahidin have been able to destroy more than 6,000 tanks, and more than 400 aircraft have been shot down by the mujahidin. In addition to the losses in Russian lives, vast expenditures are made daily for the troops and fuel for trucks and aircraft. Afghanistan has been turned into a vast graveyard for the Russians.

Life in Kabul is extremely disrupted, because the capital is not safe from the mujahidin's attacks. The mujahidin are now living around the capital, and we have about 50,000 armed mujahidin in and around Kabul.

Inside the capital, there are groups who carry out terrorist operations. Perhaps you have heard of the bombing of the Kabul airport building and the bombing of the Russian embassy. This was the seventh time it was bombed. Babrak Karmal's palace has been hit twice. Many government organizations have been hit, and life in Kabul is in disarray.

No Negotiations

[Question] Tell us about your philosophy behind rejection of negotiations with the Russian forces.

[Answer] This issue cannot be solved through negotiations around the table. From the nature of this case, it will be resolved in the trenches of battle. We have explained our case to the world, the right that is in it, and the oppression of the Afghan people. However, there is no way to resolve this issue, except by continuing the armed jihad. The document solving the issue will be written in blood.

This has been our position from the start. We do not support any negotiations. How can we enter into negotiations? On what would we negotiate?

The Russians are in our territory without any right to be. They are killing, burning, destroying. If we sit down with them in negotiations, that would be a recognition of their right to interfere in our affairs.

They came in and began to kill; we must oppose them and fight until they leave. If they leave, the issue will be over. Since they are killing us, should we say to them, sit with us to negotiate? No!

We ask all the world to put pressure on the Russians by cutting relations and by any means possible. However, we ourselves will continue our war against the Russians, and we declare that our war will continue until the last Russian soldier is ousted from Afghan territory. We have no other way to resolve this issue.

[Question] What is the situation of the Afghan people outside of Afghanistan, and what assistance do these people receive?

[Answer] The life of the emigrants is not free of problems. The Pakistani government has been very good to us in sheltering the emigrants, and it has spared no effort in giving services to the emigrants. The Saudi Red Crescent and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent have also given services in great quantities to the emigrants. Moreover, the African Islamic Relief Agency has also made commendable efforts in offering medical services in emigrant circles.

There are some emigrants living in Iran, and their situation is only fair. The life of the emigrants is not free of problems.

7005

CSO: 4604/8

U.S. CONCERN OVER WEAPONS FOR PAKISTAN NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by R. Chakrapani]

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.

Pakistan has requested the Reagan Administration permission to buy a sophisticated American airborne early warning system to guide its longrange F-16 bombers, ostensibly to defend its borders against raids by Afghanistan. It cites the recent reports of stepped up border attacks by Soviet-built Afghan aircraft resulting in large casualties on the Pakistani side.

However, the orchestration in the past few days of reports from Islamabad and locally in the U.S. press of clashes with India in the Siachen glacier region of Kashmir and a possible major attack by India on Pakistan can leave no one in doubt that the Pakistan military dictatorship is seeking the early warning system for spying on Indian defences.

Pakistan is said to be seeking in particular the E2-C which is better known as the Hawkeye and is made by the Grumman Corporation. Hawkeyes can detect and assess approaching aircraft over a range of 480 km. The E2-C is an all-weather aircraft which could accurately track more than 25 targets and 30 airborne interceptors at a given time. It has a speed of nearly 600 kmph and when once fuelled can fly for six hours continuously. The spycraft was inducted in the U.S. Air Force in 1972 and it has been supplied only to Israel, Egypt, Japan and Singapore.

As far as could be ascertained, the Reagan Administration has not made any decision on the supply of the Hawkeye to Pakistan yet but the U.S. may be inclined towards it or may be in favour of suitable alternative arrangements.

Pakistan's problems: According to a *New York Times* report, U.S. officials are agreeable to help the Government of Gen. Zia ul-Haq to improve Pakistan's air defences. The newspaper quotes a State Department official as saying that the U.S. "recognised" that Pakistanis were having "serious problems" with the presence of Soviets across the border. U.S. officials also seem to feel that Pakistan would be unable to use the F-16s effectively without some kind of airborne warning system especially when Pakistan has a long border with Afghanistan.

However, the U.S. is said to feel that Pakistan's request must be approached with caution. First, the Hawkeye contains some highly sophisticated equipment and it would not like it to fall into Soviet hands. Further, the Administration has to follow a cumbersome procedure including consultations with the Congress before its supply to Pakistan is cleared.

In the Congress, which has just adjourned for the elections, some tough questions will be raised. There is concern in the Congress about Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme and Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat from California, recently made the point that Pakistan could use the F-16s to deliver nuclear bombs. Pakistan has already received 21 F-16s against the contracted 40 planes and four more are due to reach Pakistan next month. The rest will be provided in instalments before March 1986.

Ties with India: The sharp deterioration in relations between India and Pakistan also seems to be another factor causing concern to some policy advisers in the Administration and some of them wonder if India will "over-react" to the supply of the Hawkeye to Pakistan.

The U.S. in the circumstances is also said to be exploring other ways of meeting the Pakistani request for advanced spycraft. One possibility being discussed is if electronic equipment similar to that already used in the EC-130 version of the plane in a modified Lockheed C-130 cargo planes could be given to Pakistan.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Shahabzada Yaqub Khan, who is currently in Washington, has been meeting officials in the State Department. Yesterday, he saw the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Michael H. Armacost.

At a breakfast meeting with American reporters and columnists, Mr. Yaqub Khan talked more about alleged threat from India than Afghanistan. He raised the spectre of an Indian attack on Pakistan's nuclear installations and said that this had prompted Pakistan to strengthen its "defences". Any such attack by India, he reportedly said, would be viewed by Pakistan as "naked aggression" and warned that in that event Pakistan would be left with no alterna-

tive except to "retaliate". He did not mention what steps were being taken to protect Pakistan's nuclear installations but reports here suggest that these had been or were being moved "underground".

Clashes in Kashmir: Mr. Yaqub Khan also referred to clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops in Kashmir and claimed that his Government would not be provoked by them.

Apparently, in an attempt to obtain more sophisticated military equipment from the U.S., Pakistan has also been inspiring reports from Islamabad about alleged "aggressive intentions" of India and Pakistan's professed desire to avoid any confrontation.

In one of the reports published yesterday in the *Washington Post*, Pakistani officials charged that Indian troops had already penetrated 64 km across an "unofficial extension" of the line of control in Pakistan running northeastward through the glacier region to the Chinese border and that the Indian troops were digging in there for a long stay.

CSO: 4600/1072

INDIA, SOVIET UNION TO COOPERATE IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Vinod Taksal]

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 13—India and the Soviet Union have reached an agreement on bilateral cooperation in nuclear energy utilisation programme.

Atomic Energy Commission chairman Raja Ramanna left for home on Friday night after initialling a record of his discussions with the Soviet authorities at the end of his four-day visit.

The Soviet Union will assist India in setting up nuclear power plants and networks for power utilisation. Cooperation between the two will cover supply of equipment, spares and technology for nuclear power plants.

The Soviet Union had offered to cooperate in this area during Mrs Indira Gandhi's visit here in September 1982.

Our Special Correspondent in Delhi adds: Mr Ramanna, who returned home from Moscow on Saturday morning, is meeting Mrs Gandhi on Monday to apprise her of his talks with the Soviet nuclear authorities. He will also have detailed discussions with the senior scientists and officials of his department in the next few days.

Talks between India and the Soviet Union have been going on over last two years for cooperation in development of nuclear energy. Dr Ramanna had visited Moscow earlier also to discuss the matter with the Soviet scientists and engineers.

India has developed considerable expertise both in basic and applied research in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Anticipating a turn of the century demand of one lakh MW power in the country, a 15-year programme has been chalked out to generate 10,000 MW of power from nuclear-plants.

India and the Soviet Union are also cooperating in the development of thermonuclear energy. The agreement signed between the two countries for cooperation in science and technology during 1984-87 envisaged the supply of materials needed for the high-temperature plasma containers.

CSO: 5100/0003

SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNIST ATTITUDE TOWARD PRC NOTED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 12 Oct 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

Strange things have been happening in China in recent times; strange, that is, to those who regarded it as the fountainhead of revolutionary wisdom and the world standardbearer of the revolutionary cause. Under the dispensation of the senior vice chairman of the CPC, Mr Deng Xiaoping, a large degree of private cultivation and marketing has been allowed in agriculture, to the extent that prosperous farmers now even own airplanes. In industry, foreign private capital and foreign technology have been allowed in as one of the main cornerstones of the current programme of modernisation. And all this is affecting even the way the Chinese look. Gone are the shapeless and faceless blue tunics in which both men and women garbed themselves under Mao Zedong and for a time thereafter. Even fashion shows are back. The news on Doordarshan the other day carried a clip of a fashion show in Beijing in which the traditional tight long women's dress with the slit riding up the thigh made a reappearance. A very basic change must have come over those who rule over Chinese affairs.

This feeling is in fact, shared by those who have traditionally looked towards the Chinese for ideological leadership. Perhaps for the first time, some of the multifarious groups that constitute the political spectrum to the left of the CPI(M) have come out in open condemnation of the present Chinese leadership as "right deviationist in its external and internal policies." Even more damaging than this is their criticism of the present leadership's attempt to brand Mao Zedong's thoughts as Chinese concepts applicable to only that country. Implicit in such accusations is the worst charge that one communist can level against another, that of falling prey to 'nationalistic chauvinism.' This is obviously the result of the deliberations at the recent conference of the over-a-dozen factions of what was the CPI(ML) which was called in an attempt to forge some kind of unity between these groups in order that they might avoid the path of mutual confrontation.

The significance of this change in attitude towards China will be appreciated if we go back to the first major split in the Indian communist movement in the early sixties. The signs of the split became apparent since the ninth party congress of the CPC after which Indian communists began to hold divergent views of the class character of India's ruling group. The war of 1962 with China formalised the division and the CPI split in 1964

with the breakaway CPI(M) claiming that the Indian ruling class was a landlord bourgeois complex and not a national-bourgeois formation. With the advent of the United Front government in West Bengal in 1967 came the birth of the CPI(ML) whose leaders claimed that China could do no wrong and 'China's chairman is our chairman.' This is something even the Chinese did not like. The subsequent Naxalite killings, the resultant disillusionment and disarray, and eventual death of Lin Piao and Mao Zedong ended the obsession with China. They have now come full circle with the denouncement of the present Chinese leadership.

In a sense they are true to themselves as China's present rulers have discarded large chunks of that ideology which India's far left sought to hitch its bandwagon to. But this must make the Indian far left a very odd group without any international focal point and a next to nil national following. The fate of this group is not important but for the fact that it was at one time and still is a strong magnet of youthful idealism. Considering the fact that the established Indian communist parties are today drawing few young recruits and that the far left has through historical logic rendered itself almost redundant, where does the left as a whole go from here? Since poverty and exploitation are with us the left still has a role to play, but that role has to be drastically redefined if it is to have any relevance.

CSO: 4600/1071

CONTENTS OF INDO-BULGARIAN PROTOCOL REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 15.--India and Bulgaria today signed a protocol to explore the possibilities of setting up joint projects in heavy chemical industries like fertilizer, petroleum products and detergents in the two countries as well as third countries.

In fact, the protocol reflects "serious and sustained effort" to increase trade between India and Bulgaria, which declined in 1983, on a "stable, balanced and diversified basis" in the coming years. The protocol also reflects the determination of India and Bulgaria to pay special attention to increased trade in agriculture, industrial and scientific fields.

The protocol was the outcome of prolonged bilateral talks at the seventh session of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Committee here. It was signed by Rao Birendra Singh and Mr Ognian Doinov, leaders of the Indian and Bulgarian delegations. After the signing ceremony, both expressed satisfaction at the talks and noted that the trade turnover had been good in 1984--just short of Rs 30 crores in six months as against the total turnover of Rs 37.4 crores in 1983.

On his part, Mr Doinov, who is Bulgaria's Minister for Machine Buildings, said that the two countries would aim at an increase of 20% to 30% in annual trade next year.

The two parties agreed to hold the next session of the joint commission in Sofia in 1986.

Both India and Bulgaria expressed satisfaction with the increase in the supply of Indian soyabean cakes to Bulgaria. The two countries also showed interest in establishing a joint venture in India for setting up a solvent extraction plant.

The two countries decided to explore the possibility of acquiring deep sea fishing vessels from Bulgaria with specifications suitable for Indian conditions.

In heavy industry and electronics, the two countries gave a positive estimate of the cooperation between Bulgarian organizations and the General Electric Company of India for the production of on-load tap changers for power transformers. India noted the interest shown by Bulgaria in collaboration with Indian companies for the manufacture and setting up of mini and micro-power plants.

Bulgaria confirmed its readiness for cooperation in the production of electronics components in India including article quarter exide magnets and syntonozing registers. India has agreed to study the proposal. Both the countries agreed to have the trade in electronics on a balanced basis as far as possible. India's export potential of certain electronics components was noted by Bulgaria.

Bulgaria expressed interest in acquiring experience and technical assistance from India in the field of industrial equipment like special dies, machine tools and process control instrumentation. The commission recommended to the engineering organizations and companies of the two countries to take practical steps for cooperation in setting up of projects in third countries. Bulgaria also expressed interest in various Indian projects of laying gas and oil pipelines.

Bulgaria also showed interest in supplying veterinary products for use in stock-breeding and poultry on a long-term cooperation basis. Both countries agreed to explore the possibilities of joint marketing in third countries of pharmaceutical and other chemicals products.

The two countries agreed to draw up a programme for speeding up the setting up of production capacities and successful operation of the joint ventures registered in 1983.

CSO: 4600/1066

PRESIDENT SINGH ACCUSED OF VIOLATING SIKH TRADITIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] Chandigarh, Oct. 15.--Mr Amrinder Singh, former M. P., has questioned the exoneration of Mr Zail Singh by the five head priests though he does not find fault with the head priests for this.

He told a Press conference here today that the five head priests had been misled by the "advocates" of Mr Zail Singh through whatever evidence they had produced in his defence. Actually, the charge of violation on Sikh traditions against Mr Zail Singh still stood.

He said that he had sent the evidence in support of the charge along with a letter to Jathedar Kirpal Singh, head of the Akal Takht, requesting him to reopen the case against Mr Zail Singh after verifying the evidence submitted by him. The evidence is in the form of photographs based on the doordarshan telecast of the President's visit to the Golden Temple on June 8. He showed these photographs to the reporters at the Press conference and said that there was an umbrella held for him by a member of his personal staff inside the Golden Temple premises. (The photographs did show this). He said that he had a videotape of the telecast and would show it to the head priests.

By having an umbrella carried for him, the President had violated Sikh traditions, he said and added that he should have come to the Akal Takht to plead guilty. Instead, he had sent his representatives to the head priests to plead his case and had misled them. The head priests should also ask for an explanation from him for this conduct too. His representatives had told the head priests that no umbrella was carried for him after he entered the temple complex. This was not true according to the evidence with him.

Pilgrim

He said that Mr Zail Singh had visited the Golden Temple a second time as a pilgrim and not as the President of India. This he could have done earlier to explain his conduct instead of sending his representatives. Sending representatives was also against the Sikh traditions and there could not be two sets of rulers for him and others. This way anybody, found guilty by the Akal Takht could send other people on their behalf.

He said that he did not have anything against Mr Zail Singh. Infact, he had been close to him always but he was against violation of Sikh traditions. It was a young faith and such violations could not be allowed. He said it was wrong to drag the head priests into the controversy regarding Mr Zail Singh's exoneration as they were religious and straight-forward persons and had been misled. Mr Zail Singh had not gained anything by doing so and getting exonerated. If he had come to the Akal Takht and accepted his guilt, his standing in the Sikh community would have gone up. About the other charge of his having signed some orders, it was alright to drop it as he was merely the constitutional head of State.

Asked if the case could be reopened according to the Sikh traditions, Mr Amrinder Singh said yes. So many people had seen the telecast and they did not feel convinced with the explanation given on behalf of Mr Zail Singh. He also supported a reported statement by Jathedar Kirpal Singh that the Sangat would decide if the Akal Takht had been repaired according to the Sikh traditions.

Replying to a question about his future, he said that arranging for defence of those arrested after the Army action in Punjab was a major task and he was busy mostly with that. He said that there were about 8,000 people had been arrested and all of them could not have been terrorists. The organization set up by him would arrange for legal defence of all, including Akali leaders.

CSO: 4600/1066

QUESTIONS PUT TO CONGRESS-I CANDIDATES NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 84 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10.

Congress (I) members from seven States apprised the party general secretaries of the nature of the Opposition challenge in the coming Lok Sabha elections and related matters in their respective areas, as the five-day assessment exercise began at the AICC (I) office today.

Mr. A. K. Antony met the leaders from Tamil Nadu, some 18 of them, while his colleagues, Mr. G. K. Moopanar talked to representatives from Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Chand Ram to those from Orissa, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor discussed the affairs of Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, and Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpayee of Assam. The situation in Pondicherry and Lakshadweep was also taken up by Mr. Antony, who will meet the representatives of Andhra Pradesh tomorrow and Karnataka on Friday.

Apart from the set format of nine questions, additional information was elicited on special factors obtaining in each State. For instance, in the case of Tamil Nadu, the state of the AIA-DMK, the Congress (I)'s election ally, particularly in the context of the challenge posed to it by the DMK, the impact of the Sri Lanka developments and the repercussions of the Andhra Pradesh developments figured in the discussions.

Similarly, in the case of Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, the effect of the Punjab events was sought to be gauged. The discussions on Assam were gone through despite the uncertainty over the timing of the elections there.

The question uppermost in the minds of the State leaders, that is, the modalities for choosing the candidates, was, however, not touched specifically, though this was the main talking point in informal discussions among themselves. It was clear that the traditional practice of inviting the recommendations of specially-constituted Pradesh Election Committees would not be followed and that important leaders at the Centre would have a major say in "spotting the winners". There was general belief that candidates for nearly two-thirds of the seats had been almost finalised.

The questions: The questions put to the State representatives related to (1) the pattern of the electorate and the attitude towards the Congress (I) of the various sections, particularly, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes; (2) estimate of the strength of the other parties and their attitude towards the ruling party; (3) issues of local and national importance that need clarification by the AICC; (4) the number of district party units working effectively in each State; (5) the nature of the poll machinery, if already set up at the State level; (6) the prospects of joint Opposition candidates being put up against the Congress (I), in view of the likelihood of alliance of the non-Congress (I) parties; (7) major issues likely to be issued in each State and suggestions for greater attention on particular subject in the party's poll strategy; (8) the achievements of State Governments that could be propagated; and (9) steps that are considered necessary for enthusing party workers for the poll campaign.

CSO: 4600/1069

REPORTAGE ON RAJIV'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Party Leaders Interviewed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 11--As Mr Rajiv Gandhi began interviewing here today the prominent party men who had been interviewed by other AICC(I) secretaries yesterday on the state of the party and of politics in general in their respective States, it became clear that the objective of the exercise was to assess the best way of meeting the Opposition challenge in each Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr Gandhi spent about five minutes with each interviewee, telling the latter that he had already seen the report of the interview yesterday and asking if there was anything to add. Some are said to have taken the opportunity to press for amenities in their constituencies so as to enhance the party's electoral chances.

In some of these cases, according to what one heard in the AICC(I) office, Mr Gandhi immediately gave instructions to his aide for due action. The rest were noted for action at the earliest.

He, however, spent a longer time, about half an hour or more, with visiting Chief Ministers and PCC(I) chiefs. And he is said to have put two main questions to them. Who would be the best person for fielding by the party as its candidate in each constituency in their State? And who was the major Opposition challenger in the constituency?

According to one account, he also drew their attention to Press criticism of the party's working, apparently for remedial action.

Besides, he is said to have shared with them his own assessment of the situation.

For instance, he is understood to have told Assam leaders that in four out of the 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State, there had to be a fresh look at the electoral situation and the candidate to be fielded.

By late evening, Mr Gandhi had finished interviewing party men from five States and two Union Territories. He was expected to interview some more.

Side by side, five other general secretaries interviewed prominent party men from 10 States and three Union Territories, along the same lines as yesterday.

Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, general secretary in charge of Press relations, who had also sat in on some of the interviews, told reporters that the discussions had been "very useful" and that the reports the party was getting were "very encouraging".

A more significant thing Mr Chandrakar mentioned was that all leaders, including former Chief Ministers, had offered a firm assurance of harmonious working. "They said they would give no cause for complaint, whatever, in future".

PTI adds. Most of the Congress (I) leaders from Andhra Pradesh today told the party High Command that the party could not afford to face the elections in its present "shape" and something should be done to improve its image.

They told Mr A. K. Antony, party general secretary in charge of their State, that infusing "youth and vigour" into the organization to fight the Telegu Desam led by Mr N. T. Rama Rao would salvage the party to some extent, according to views gathered from most of the leaders who met Mr Antony.

Content of Interviews

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 19 Oct 84 p 4

[Text]

Calcutta, Oct. 17: Loyalty and reliability are the two criteria stressed by the AICC(I) general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for nominating Congress(I) candidates for the coming Lok Sabha polls, according to the state Congress(I) leaders who were interviewed by him in Delhi on Sunday night.

According to them, Mr Gandhi had asked them about the state of affairs of the Congress(I) in the state, and about the poll prospects in the coming elections. He gave the state Congress(I) leaders to understand that the polls would be held early next year. Mr Gandhi held separate meetings with the chief whip of the Congress(I) legislature party, the chairman of the Chhatra Parishad(I), Mr Subrata Mukherjee, and the state Youth Congress president, Mr Somen

Mitra.

Some of the state Congress(I) leaders said Mr Gandhi had reservations about the loyalty of some former Congress(S) leaders who joined the party last year. Despite opposition from some former Congress(S) leaders, it was decided that the DCC(I) would forward names of candidates for the Lok Sabha polls to the WBPCC(I), which would then seek the approval of the AICC(I). Mr Gandhi said the names of the Congress(I) candidates would be made public only after the date of the election was announced.

Mr Gandhi reportedly turned down the suggestion of some leaders that 42 committees be formed in West Bengal, one for each of the constituencies, to decide upon the nominations.

Speeches on 22 Oct

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Oct 84 p 6

[Excerpt]

ROURKELA, Oct. 22.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Congress (I) General Secretary, who commenced a three-day tour of Orissa here yesterday accused the opposition combine of being party to every effort at weakening and tearing the country apart. It was all nothing but "an attempt to capture power in the States at the cost of the nation," he said.

He also addressed two more wayside meetings and another public meeting at Sundergarh and entered the Sambalpur district in the afternoon. His meetings at Rourkela and Sundergarh were marred by some in the crowd who waved black flags and shouted slogans against the Congress (I) rule in the State. These people were whisked away by the police. Eighteen people had been taken into preventive custody before Mr. Rajiv Gandhi entered Sundergarh district. Mr. J. B. Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa, is accompanying him on his tour.

24 Oct Speech

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Oct 84 p 12

[Text] BHUBANESWAR, October 24 (PTI)--The Congress general secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today warned that the country was facing a threat from super powers which were 'jealous' of India's increasing strength and leadership amongst developing nations.

Addressing public meeting at Berhampur, in the southern district of Ganjam, and along the route to the state capital on the final day of his three-day visit to Orissa, Mr. Gandhi said that global tension was increasing and arms build up, particularly in neighbouring countries, was assuming alarming proportions.

Mr. Gandhi accused certain opposition parties of covertly supporting super powers which harboured mischievous intentions towards India and said such supports boded ill for the country's future.

Mr. Gandhi also accused the opposition parties and sections of the press of unfairly branding the Congress as being "anti-democracy."

"Whenever the Congress is replaced by an opposition party at the Centre or in a state, they say democracy has been preserved but when the Congress takes over from an opposition party, they say that democracy is in danger."

CSO: 4600/1070

INDIA

UNITED FRONT LEADERS' 11 OCT MEETING REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 11--Even as the national executive of the Janata Party was due to meet on Sunday to discuss its election strategy, the Janata-led nine-party United Front held an informal meeting here today for some political stock-taking and, in the process, it also decided that another meeting should be held on Wednesday to pursue the question of Opposition unity.

Not all of the nine parties represented on the United Front were present today, but even so the leaders present decided to support efforts to achieve cohesiveness among Opposition parties. They, according to Mr I. K. Gujral the spokesman of the Front, shared the belief that the electorate was completely disillusioned with the "accumulated misgovernance" by the Congress (I). There was a widespread feeling, therefore, that the present Government must be replaced.

It was in this context that the Opposition leaders attending the meeting felt the need for a credible, programme-based closeness among the various parties which they believed would be helpful in achieving the objective of throwing out the present Congress (I) Government. This process, they agreed, required more discussions and it was, therefore, decided to hold another informal meeting on October 17.

Among those who attended today's meeting were Mr Chandra Shekhar, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, Mr Sharad Pawar, Mr K. P. Unnikrishnan, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Ratubhai Adani, and Mr I. K. Gujral. The three factions of the Republican Party were absent because their leaders could not be contacted in time.

The meeting had an exhaustive discussion on the Assam situation and expressed strong resentment against the existing "reign of political tyranny" in the State. They asked the Government to explain how the atrocities against the people had come to be committed as had been exposed by the Mehta Inquiry Committee.

They noted with regret that Assam had remained virtually unrepresented through the life of the seventh Lok Sabha and, in this context, urged that parliamentary elections in the State be held with the rest of the country on the basis of the 1971 electoral list as suggested by the Election Commission.

The United Front leaders, who will be going to Amritsar for "kar seva" individually or in groups during the next week, expressed their relief that though belatedly, the Government had at last restored the control of the Golden Temple and its adjacent buildings to the rightful authorities. They appealed to all Punjabis to begin a new era of peace and to work unitedly to arrest all acts of violence.

The leaders also demanded the release of all Akali leaders so that the political process of negotiations was revived and an environment created for solving the problems facting the State.

They demanded that the Government publish a list of all those killed or arrested during and after the Army action in Punjab. They expressed their dismay over the sickening manner in which innocent women and children had been detained during and after the Army actions.

CSO: 4600/1070

BJP NATIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS POLITICAL RESOLUTION

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 84 pp 1, 7

[Article by M. H. Jadhav]

[Text] PUNE, Oct. 13--The National Council of the Bharatiya Janata Party, on the second day of its three-day conclave here today, adopted a highly-belligerent and harshly-worded political resolution which was a veritable catalogue of accusations against Mrs Gandhi's Government at the Centre.

Its refrain was that the Congress (I)-run State Governments created political instability, put into jeopardy national unity and subverted democracy.

The resolution, which lacked any direction to party men, was moved by the former Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr Bhairav Singh Shekhavat, and was supported by the former Himachal Chief Minister, Mr Shanta Kumar. The adoption of the resolution was preceded by an over three-hour debate.

As stated in the resolution, both Mr Shekhavat and Mr Shanta Kumar said that Mrs Gandhi's continuance in office could only breed greater disunity and insecurity, increasing lawlessness and corruption. The resolution said that both in the north-east and north-west, the partisan policies of the Congress (I) had led to violence, terrorism and even secessionism.

In Punjab, while one section felt alienated the other felt insecure. It repeated the BJP's charge that the Congress(I) government was wholly responsible for inducting and promoting terrorism in Punjab and that Bhindrawale had been a creature of the Congress (I).

The Assam situation continued to be grave following the policy of "deliberate drift" adopted by the Government in respect of foreign nationals. This would prove dangerous for the unity of the country. (Referring to the functioning of tribunals in Assam, the resolution said that in the first seven months of their working, the 20 tribunals had declared just one person a foreign infiltrator. Indeed, these tribunals were a cruel joke on the people of Assam, according to PTI.)

The ruling party's refusal to accept the Election Commission's recommendations about electoral rolls in Assam could only lead to a second boycott of the Lok Sabha elections in that State, which would mean a denial, for the second time, to Assam's representation in Parliament.

The resolution mentioned the toppling of the Governments in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh.

In Gujarat, it was pointed out, the Congress (I) led by Mr Madhavsingh Solanki presided over a feud that recently culminated in the massacre of Patels Mangadh village in Bhavnagar district. In many parts of the country, the Congress (I) had organized riots to divide the people, the resolution said, and mentioned the communal riots in Baroda, Bhiwandi and Bombay as examples. Of late, it was alleged, the Congress (I) had been busy organizing riots in [word illegible]-congress (I) governed Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as evidenced by the violence in Hyderabad and in Hubli, Bijapur, Belgaum and Bellary.

Indeed, one of the principal reasons for the collapse of law and order in the country was the "unholy connexion which subsists today between the ruling party and the underworld". According to an Uttar Pradesh Minister, more than 50% of 8,000 administrators of cooperative societies nominated by the State Government were either convicts or had criminal records.

The resolution alleged that the Congress(I) tried to scare the people. Apart from its continuing efforts at toppling non-congress (I) Governments, it had been shuffling its own Ministries and portfolios or Ministers at the Centre and in the States.

The former Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant-General S. K. Sinha, was against any attempts by a political party to make national security an issue in the coming elections to the Lok Sabha.

Addressing the BJP National Council as guest speaker, General Sinha said that national security could not be the monopoly of any single political party or individual. The integrity and survival of the nation were issues on which there could be no opinions. And these issues should be kept above party politics.

He said there had to be a national consensus on national security, issues emphasizing that no political party should "play politics" with national security or defence matters in an election year. Making it clear that he did not belong to any political party, he surveyed the external and internal dangers faced by India.

He said that the increased logistic capability of China in Tibet after the construction of the Gormo Lhase oil pipeline and the frantic rearming of Pakistan with \$3.2 billion U.S. aid were matters of grave concern to India's national security "We should however, identify the correct dimension of these threats and no attempt should be made in an election year to take an exaggerated account. He said the superpower military build-up in the Indian Ocean had to be viewed in the context of the nuclear balance of power when neither side would dare start a war which would destroy all on humanity.

The littoral States did not face the threat of a direct and open onslaught by a superpower as that would attract military retaliation by the other

superpowers leading to a worldconflagration which both were keen to avoid. However, General Sinha pointed out that the real threat to India's integrity and sovereignty was from the U.S.A. by proxy Wars and intervention by urging Pakistan for war against India. India's relations with Russia had been cordial and it proved a reliable friend, he said. However General Sinha warned the Government to guard against getting too close to Russia and thereby come under its hegemonism and cease to remain an independent country.

CSO: 4600/1073

CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL DEPLORES COMMUNAL INCIDENTS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 13--Blaming the Congress (I) for the recurrence of communal incidents in the country largely because of its "criminal inaction and failure to act even in the face of visible preparations and open vituperations or propaganda", the National Council of the Communist Party of India now in session here has suggested various steps to curb communalism in the country.

The national council of the party has demanded a ban on the use of places of religious worship for communal and political activities, ban on communal propaganda by making it a cognizable offence, "exemplary punishment" for perpetrators of communal violence and reorganization of the police force to make it representative of all communities.

The council has also urged that national and State-level integration councils be activated and rid of communal elements a ban on the use of public places and Government educational institutions by communal organizations, curbing the Government mass media from giving publicity to communal and fundamentalist propaganda and banning Government officials from associating with functions preaching communalism and fundamentalist revivalism. It has demanded a revision of textbooks at the school and college levels to weed out the communal bias in some of the prescribed books. The CPI national council regretted that communalism had spread even to rural areas.

The resolution said in many places the administration and the police had colluded with communal elements and the Army had to be called out. The Congress (I)'s policy of appeasing communal forces for its partisan and electoral ends and its continuous distortion of the principles of secularism by converting State functions into semi-religious ones and mixing these up with Hindu and other religious rituals was responsible to a large extent for the growth of communal forces, it said.

The RSS and its outfits like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad was bent on engulfing the country in communal conflicts. Their recent campaign of "reclaiming" century-old mosques and even historical monuments like Qutab Minar, Delhi's Jama Masjid and the Taj Mahal was fraught with serious consequences. The movement for "Ram bhumi" was extremely dangerous as also the call given by the RSS chief, Mr Deoras to vote only for "pro-Hindu" candidates.

Attempts were also being made to foment communal strife between the Hindus and Sikhs, the resolution alleged. The national council of the CPI had urged all Left, democratic and secular parties and mass organizations to take initiatives to diffuse communal tension before they reach a flash-point.

CSO: 4600/1073

CPI-M LEADER CALLS DIFFERENCES WITH CPI MINOR

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Oct 84 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Oct. 16: The differences between the two Communist parties, the CPI and the CPI(M), on the question of seat adjustments, were narrowing down, Mr E.M.S. Namboodripad, CPI(M) general secretary, told newsmen here today. He added that the two parties were united in their commitment to strengthening the representation of the Left and democratic forces for the forthcoming Lok Sabha election.

Commenting on today's meeting between the top leadership of the CPI and the CPI(M), Mr Namboodripad implied that differences between the two parties on the question of seat adjustments, including the Midnapore seat, had been taken up. These differences, he said, were "not serious." No decision is likely to be taken on the question of the disputed seats till the electoral picture in Bihar becomes clearer. However, he indicated that there was not likely to be any real difficulty in arriving at an understanding.

No ties with BJP: Mr Namboodripad also ruled out any kind of electoral understanding with the

BJP. Speaking on the draft report prepared by the politburo for presentation to the central committee on October 27, the CPI(M) general secretary said while the BJP might be prepared to change its stand on having an electoral understanding, the CPI(M) was determined not to have any understanding with the BJP.

The CPI(M), he said, would have adjustments with the 17 Opposition parties who had agreed on an 11-point charter of economic demands and arrived at a consensus on the key question of Centre-state relations in Srinagar. Neither the Lok Dal nor the BJP had been a party to this meeting.

Mr Namboodripad stressed that an electoral understanding could only be on the basis of acceptance of a common programme which would be "anti-imperialist and anti-war in foreign relations, anti-authoritarian internally, and committed to national unity and integration on the basis of struggle against divisive and separatist forces of all kinds."

CSO: 4600/1073

BJP WISH TO BE MAJOR OPPOSITION FORCE NOTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] PUNE, Oct. 16--The belligerent, harshly critical postures of the central leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party against the ruling Congress (I) at the Centre during the three-day conclave of the party's national council, which concluded here on Sunday, highlighted the renewed ambition of the BJP to emerge as a major force from among the non-Communist Opposition parties in the next Lok Sabha.

The Janata, headed by Mr Chandra Shekhar, is slowly disintegrating. The influence of the Lok Dal appears to be limited to the backward classes in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana, while most of the non-Communist Opposition parties have only regional bases.

In sharp contrast, the BJP, with all India support structures and backed by the RSS cadres, appears to be the main opponent of the Congress (I) in the coming elections. This is the BJP leadership demonstrated effectively by vehemently criticizing the Congress (I) Government and more particularly Mrs Gandhi.

The reiteration by the leadership that the BJP stands for the seat adjustment with other non-Communist Opposition parties without specifying the party's position in regard to the Communists, for the coming Lok Sabha elections, was the constant refrain throughout the three-day meeting of the national council. This reiteration was well documented in advance in the pre-poll survey prepared by the party general secretary, Mr L. K. Advani, in the harshly worded presidential address of Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee as also in the resolution outlining the BJP's approach to the coming elections.

Four-Point Proposal

Mr Vajpayee was the only Opposition leader who put forth in writing the formulations for all Opposition parties to come together to defeat the Congress (I) in the election. The four-point proposal of Mr Vajpayee stating unequivocally that the BJP stands for seat adjustment towards the ultimate objective of forming a coalition Government of Opposition parties after the elections and that the leader of the coalition should be chosen by Opposition representatives elected to the Lok Sabha was announced by him in Delhi on September 12.

Mr Vajpayee, who is undoubtedly the undisputed leader of his party, had clearly two objectives. Firstly, he convincingly demonstrated to his party-men that he had stuck to the decision of the national council meeting held in Indore in January this year, that the leadership would uncompromisingly maintain the separate identity, and character of the BJP. This was meant to reassure the party's rank and file which is mostly drawn from the cadres of the RSS and more importantly to satisfy the top leadership of the RSS. He also sought to convey to other non-Communist Opposition parties that the BJP is going to be the eldest partner or only next to Mr Charan Singh's Lok Dal in a coalition Government after the elections.

Pre-Poll Survey

Mr Advani's pre-poll survey submitted to the national council for its consideration, attempted to claim that the BJP had already emerged as the leading force after the January Lok Sabha and the June Assemble elections in 1980. The pre-poll survey has declared that "during the past four years the BJP has won 16 by-elections, three to the Lok Sabha and 13 to various State Assemblies. No other party has had such a record."

Secondly, Mr Advani has pointed out that the series of election results have essentially been a vote of censure against the Congress (I) rather than a preference vote in favour of the Opposition. Mr Advani asserted that "the results also indicate that from among the Opposition parties, only the BJP has made a positive impact, and it has maintained steady electoral progress. It has also emerged as the biggest beneficiary of Congress (I) reverses. Elections held in Himachal, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have clearly indicated that electoral politics in these States have become polarized between the Congress (I) and the BJP".

On the basis of this data the documents adopted by the national council have sought to dictate to the non-Communist Opposition parties that they cannot dispute the BJP's superiority over them in terms of its countrywide spread and electoral merits and that they must accept immediately Mr Vajpayee's four-point proposal.

The BJP leadership pointed out that the adverse results against the Congress (I) in the by-elections have stemmed from a popular mood of censure. Therefore, even if there is no agreement among the Opposition parties or if there is even a partial agreement, the Congress (I) is going to end up as a minority party in the next Lok Sabha. A proper seat adjustment will only make this doubly sure.

CSO: 4600/1074

JANATA REPORTED DIVIDED OVER MERGER WITH LOK DAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 17--Sharp differences in the Janata Party leadership over the "merger" with the Lok Dal surfaced today, reports UNI. Three prominent Janata leaders--Mr Karpoori Thakur, Mr Devi Lal and Mr Kumbha Ram Arya--at a crowded Press conference here alleged that "some Congress (I) elements within their party and outside were sabotaging the unity efforts".

After their failure to carry the majority with them on the merger issue in the party's national executive here last Sunday they said it was by now "public knowledge how the unity formula was sabotaged" on that day.

Draft Agreement

They released the tentative draft agreement for the coming together of the two parties under which the name and flag of the Janata Party would be retained and Mr Charan Singh and Mr Chandra Shekhar would be its "president" and "working president," respectively.

The formula provided that the two leaders would be jointly responsible for the allotment of party symbol in the election and "collective responsibility" would be exercised in running the organization.

Mr Thakur claimed that Mr Charan Singh had accepted the formula. He did not insist on the leadership and it was they who had persuaded him to head the new political set-up.

Mr Charan Singh, however, objected to the idea of having a president and a working president and called for "further discussion" on it, Mr Thakur said.

'Changed Man'

Asked how they could trust Mr Charan Singh who had treated Mr Devi Lal and Mr Thakur shabbily when they were in the Lok Dal, Mr Thakur said Mr Charan Singh was a changed man now. He had given a written assurance about his style of functioning.

Our Special Representative adds: The Three Janata leaders said the unity efforts would continue, "not only between Janata and Lok Dal but between all like-minded parties."

Mr Thakur said an impression was sought to be created that the unity efforts had failed. That impression was without basis, the unity efforts were continuing. He claimed that 99% of the people in the Janata Party wanted unity with Lok Dal.

Mr Thakur declined to identify those elements who were opposed to the merger.

The Press conference was convened amid reports this morning that the three leaders had decided to joint the Lok Dal and that they would announce their decision today. However, Mr Tahkur made it clear that they were not joining the Lok Dal on their own. "I say this categorically," he said.

Would his statement remain valid for at least 24 hours? He was asked. "For more than 24 hours," Mr Thakur replied.

Vajpayee's Call

PTI adds from Surat: The BJP president, Mr A. B. Vajpayee, today appealed to the Lok Dal and Janata leaders to work for a national democratic alliance of the political parties and forget about merger.

Mr Vajpayee told reporters here that much time had been wasted on merger talks. The process of forging electoral alliances should be speeded up in which there would be seat adjustments followed by a common programme and joint campaign.

He demanded that the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls be held simultaneously. He said the Opposition alliance, if formed, should work successfully this time as all the parties, including the BJP had learnt a lesson from their past mistakes.

CSO: 4600/1075

NEW MINISTERS SWORN INTO ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 18 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

Hyderabad, Oct. 17: Six new ministers were sworn into the Andhra Pradesh ministry at Raj Bhavan this morning by the governor Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, raising the strength of the Cabinet to 16.

Mr K. Narayana Swami from Darasi constituency in Prakasam district and Mr R. Rajagopal Reddy from Lakkireddipalli in Cuddaah are Cabinet-rank ministers holding the irrigation and transport portfolios, respectively. The other four are state ministers. Mr K. Appalanaidu from Utturupalli in Vizag district is the minister for state for endowments. Mr Muddu Krishnamanaidu from Puturu in Chittoor has the education portfolio. Mr D. Satyanarayana from Nizamabad is excise minister while Dr N. A. Krishna from Secunderabad cantonment has the khadi and village industries portfolio. This expansion of the Cabinet maintains the representation of the three regions of the state.

The chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, later said at a press conference that this expansion was only the "first phase." Asked for further details he said, "Why do you want me to commit myself?" He said he would consider representation for the minorities and women in the Cabinet at a later stage.

On the dissolution of the Assembly, Mr Rama Rao said though he had been given a free

hand in the matter by his MLAs, he had no such plans "at present."

Bhaskara probe: The chief minister also announced the appointment of a three-man inquiry commission, headed by the former Supreme Court judge, Mr V.R. Krishna Iyer, to go into alleged "irregularities committed by the Bhaskara Rao government." Mr Rama Rao specified the Chiraan Palace case, in which the Bhaskara Rao government had reversed earlier orders and granted exemption under the Urban Land Ceilings Act to the owners of the palace, Prince Mukarram Jah, as well as the issue of excise and liquor licences.

Mr Rama Rao said the commission will take up any other case that the state government refers to it. The commission, appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act will hold public sittings. The two other members will be Mr M. Krishna Rao and Mr Gangadhara Rao, both former judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The terms of office of the commission and its terms of reference are to be finalised.

Regarding the Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde's suggestion that Mr Rama Rao should tour the country, the chief minister said he had not decided about it as yet but would consider going to places where he would be effective.

ANALYST REPORTS ON INDO-BANGLADESH COMMITTEE MEETING

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 17.

The Secretary-level standing committee of the Indo-Bangladesh joint economic commission, which concluded its three-day session in Delhi, agreed to take suitable steps to expand and diversify bilateral trade, step up the pace of industrial collaboration and establish a direct air link between the two capitals, besides improving the telecommunication facilities by opening new telephone and telex circuits.

The joint commission was established at the time of Gen. H.M. Ershad's state visit to Delhi and at the first meeting held on that occasion it was decided to set up a standing committee to meet more often to discuss detailed proposals for increased economic cooperation.

As a subordinate body of this economic commission, the standing committee was not expected to discuss any political issues with the result that none of the prickly problems like the Ganga waters dispute, the transfer of enclaves, the erection of the border fence and the maritime boundary question which continue to strain Indo-Bangla relations came up for consideration even informally at this meeting in Delhi.

Serious charge

But the meeting itself was held under the shadow of the serious charge levelled by the Indian Home Secretary, Mr. M. M. K. Wali, at a recent press conference in Kashmir, that Bangladesh has been privately helping the insurgents in the North-East region, just as Pakistan was doing to encourage terrorism in Punjab by secretly training and arming the extremists.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, who headed the Indian delegation, spoke quite significantly about India's "earnest desire" to sort out the outstanding issues with Bangladesh amicably through negotiations, without specifying these problems. The reference was to political issues, like the water dispute, the border fence question and maritime boundary demarcation.

Special efforts

The agreed minutes of the standing committee released today stressed that the two countries had decided to make special efforts to redress the present imbalances in bilateral trade which was in India's favour at present.

The Government of India had agreed to consider Bangladesh's request for an early finalisation of the contract for supply of another 20,000 tonnes of newsprint in 1985, while making arrangements to take delivery of the balance of the 20,000 tonnes under the previous contract.

The Indian side also evinced its interest in importing naphtha and natural gas from Bangladesh, besides giving sympathetic consideration to the Bangladesh offer to export bamboo pulp, sarees and carpets. But it could not entertain the request of Bangladesh for tariff concession on raw jute, paper, rayon, bitumen and finished leather, since any revision of the existing levels had to be negotiated within the framework of the Bangkok agreement.

In the field of agricultural and industrial collaboration, it was decided to send an Indian team during the next crushing season to advise on the rehabilitation of three sick sugar mills in need of modernisation. Similarly, the appropriate Indian agencies would conduct feasibility studies and assist or advise Bangladesh in expanding a cement plant, setting up a sponge iron and steel complex, and four chemical and pharmaceutical plants.

Indian credit

The agreed minutes also mentioned the desire of both countries to cooperate in banking and finance, while discussing the scope of Indian credit already offered to Bangladesh to help buy Indian products. The two sides also decided to settle payments by Bangladesh for goods purchased from India through the Asian clearing house.

Apart from reestablishing a direct air link between Delhi and Dhaka, it was decided to permit cross railway traffic between the two countries, but there was no mention of any new steps for resuming inland water transit to provide for cheaper transportation and goods to increase bilateral trade.

Mr. Rasgotra, had proposed in his opening speech to the standing committee on Monday the reconstruction of the bridge at Kushiara with Indian assistance and deepening of the river to facilitate inland water traffic, but apparently there was no progress on this issue, since no mention was made of it in the agreed minutes.

CONGRESS-I GENERAL SECRETARY TELLS CAMPAIGN PLANS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

Congress-I general secretary A K Antony said on Thursday that his party would concentrate more on the southern States of Andhra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu for the Lok Sabha polls because of the 'double-talk' of the BJP, CPI and the CPI-M.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Antony, who is incharge of the southern States, barring Kerala, his home State, said in public the two Left parties were claiming that they would have no truck with the rightist BJP in the North. But in the South, they were working together in league with the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh and the Janata Party in Karnataka. The three parties were trying to extend similar cooperation in Kerala and Tamilnadu also.

Mr Antony said the intentions of these parties in the South were quite clear. By declaring that they were 'untouchables' for each other they were only trying to mislead the people. Taking them to task for their 'double-talk', Mr Antony said if the CPI, CPI-M and the BJP were honest about their public pronouncements, they should prove it by severing their relations in Andhra and Karnataka.

The AICC-I general secretary did not comment when asked about the extent of the challenge posed to the Congress-I in the South.

"Will the Congress-I improve its position over that of 1980?" Replying, he said, "I don't want to say anything at the moment. But we are hopeful". Mr Antony said by and large the political situation throughout the country was improving in favour of the Congress-I.

Mr Antony told newsmen that in the southern States, the Congress-I would make all-out efforts to activate party units at all levels, sort out differences among the partymen and identify itself with the people and their basic and other problems which were highlighted by leaders from the region during the recent five-day exercise.

The general secretary pointed out that while the demand for activating the party and its workers was universally stressed, other issues varied from place to place. For instance, leaders from Tamilnadu conveyed the people's anxiety over the Sri Lanka developments over the Tamilians' issue. Drought was a big problem both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. But the communal situation was an additional issue in Andhra Pradesh where several innocent lives had been lost.

The Congress-I had now decided to pay special attention to the economic problems of the people in the southern States as elsewhere, Mr Antony said.

He said that on Friday he was leaving for Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra and Pondichery for an on-the-spot assessment of the poll situations as decided during the five-day exercise and to consolidate the party organisation there.

In the present Lok Sabha, the State-wise strength of Congress-I MPs is as follows: Andhra Pradesh 39 out of 42, Karnataka 26 out of 27 and Tamilnadu three out of 40. From Pondicherry the lone seat is held by the party.

Asked how he would tackle the intra party feuds in Karnataka and if present PCC-I president K H Patil would be replaced, Mr Antony said "Wait for a week and the matter would be sorted out." "We have solution to the party problems in every State".

In Tamilnadu, he said the members of the campaign committee, headed by Mr Sivaji Ganesan, had been finalised. The committee would have 50 members. The names would be announced in Madras.

About the FM Khan controversy, Mr Antony said he had been expelled from the party by Mrs Indira Gandhi on the recommendation of the disciplinary action committee. That position stands, he added.

OPPOSITION LEADERS MEET IN DELHI, ISSUE STATEMENT

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

New Delhi, Oct. 19 (UNI, PTI): Several top leaders of the Opposition today reminded people irrespective of their religion and region, of their duty to uphold the unity of the country by defending secular values and fighting obscurantism.

In a joint statement, issued after their meeting here, they said the state machinery presented a "pathetic sight and did not adequately protect the minorities or give them a feeling of security."

Signatories to the statement included: Mr Chandra Shekhar (Janata), Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad (CPI-M), Mr C. Rajeswara Rao (CPI), Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan (Cong-S), Mr Chandrajit Yadav (Janvadi), Mr C.T. Dhandapani (DMK), Mr Chitta Basu (FB), Mr I.K. Gujral (United Front) and Mr Shastri (RSP). Expressing "deep distress" at the recent spurt in communal riots in many parts of the country, they recalled the proud tradition of the freedom struggle which had always emphasised "secularism as the main prop of the edifice of our national unity."

They said "our linguistic, cultural and religious diversity

has been wedded into a national polity that functions on the basis of democratic equality and social justice."

"Unfortunately, particularly of late, such divisive forces have emerged that are trying to divide our nation in the name of religion, history and regions. Such movements constantly attempt to rouse the communal sentiments that result in riots between fellow Indians. The perception of secularism is being negated by encouraging such narrow fundamentalism that do not conform with the rich cultural traditions of the Indian people," it added.

A top level Opposition delegation will visit Maunath Bhanjan on Monday to make an on-the-spot study of the situation in the riot-affected town in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation will include Mr Chandrajit Yadav, Mr Chandra Shekhar, Mr Namboodiripad and Mr Rajeswara Rao.

The meeting blamed the government for letting things go out of control in Maunath Bhanjan. It said only Congress(I) leaders were allowed to visit the town, while Opposition leaders were barred.

CSO: 4600/1080

PREROGATIVES OF CHIEF MINISTERS, GOVERNORS DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 24--The Centre is no longer conceding that the Chief Minister of a State has an absolute and unfettered right to advise the Governor to dissolve the Assembly and ask for fresh elections at any time of his choice, so long as he still has a proven majority in the House.

The convention hitherto followed was that the Governor was bound to accept such advice, if he was satisfied that the Chief Minister had not lost his majority in the Assembly for whatever reason.

In the debate now going on behind the scenes in Delhi over the reported bid of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, to seek dissolution and go in for fresh elections, the Centre is taking the view that the Governor need not act on such advice without exploring the possibilities of an alternative government. A distinction is being drawn between the Chief Minister of a State like Tamil Nadu with a well established majority asking for dissolution and another like Mr. Rama Rao doing so, after his recent experience, simply to forestall a renewed attempt to topple him.

Another point that is being made by those opposed to dissolution in such circumstances is that in Andhra Pradesh the present Assembly has not completed even two years out of its five-year tenure, unlike as in Tamil Nadu where there are only eight months left for the outgoing Assembly to finish its full term. It is argued that the Governor would be well within his constitutional rights if he deferred dissolution until he had satisfied himself that the breakaway Telugu Desam group headed by Mr. N. Bhaskara Rao or anybody else was not in a position to muster enough backing with Congress (I)'s support to stake its claim to form another government.

But a piquant situation would arise if the Congress (I) high command directs its legislature party in Andhra Pradesh to keep out of such a move and not lend its support to Mr. Bhaskara Rao as it did in the recent occasion. In that case the Governor would have to consider whether Mr. Rama Rao still enjoyed an undisputed majority before considering his advice to dissolve the Assembly and allow him to head a caretaker government until the elections.

If the Governor felt that Mr. Rama Rao was in danger of losing his majority and that some of his supporters might defect to the other camp to avert dissolution, it is argued that, as a constitutional head entitled to exercise his discretion in such situations, he would be well within his right to dismiss the present Ministry, keep the Assembly in suspended animation and recommend President's rule, until it is possible to form another government in due course.

But what is really important in this context is that, irrespective of the validity of this constitutional interpretation, the Congress (I) is concerned about the political fall-out of such a patently partisan action. Once again Mr. Rama Rao would be cast in the role of a political martyr, as the victim of a diabolical conspiracy, which would be highly detrimental to its interests in the Lok Sabha elections. Mr Rama Rao would be less dangerous to Congress (I)'s interests while he is in office bearing the cross for the many shortcomings of his government than as a crusader campaigning ferociously against it.

The political aspect will continue to inhibit the Congress (I) from identifying itself openly with another toppling operation or an open refusal of his advice by the Governor if he manages to keep his present truncated majority intact while recommending dissolution. In such a situation, the Centre might discourage the idea of having the Assembly poll simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections by citing administrative reasons.

But the Election Commission would find itself placed in an embarrassing position, if it is required to have a simultaneous poll in Tamil Nadu and refuse the same in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh without any valid reason.

The friends of Mr. Rama Rao in the Opposition circles here want him to look carefully into the pros and cons of all these possibilities before opting for dissolution and asking for fresh elections. They are aware that both Mr. Bhaskara Rao and the leader of the Congress (I) legislature party, Mr. Madan Mohan, have already written to the Governor against the acceptance of such advice by Mr. Rama Rao without making doubly certain about his continued majority

CSO: 4600/1087

NAGA SOURCE COMMENTS ON RECENT RUMORS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 84 p 7

[Text] KOHIMA, Oct. 20--There is no move on the part of the underground "Federal government of Nagaland" to hold a dialogue with the Centre for solving the Naga political problem, a senior FGN source said here today, reports PTI.

Reacting to reports that the FGN acting president "Brigadier" Shingnya, had expressed willingness to hold talks with the Centre, the source said, the question did not arise till the FGN was approached by "an official agency".

The Centre, so far, had not extended any invitation. "Under the circumstances, the acting president's willingness or otherwise to hold talks with the Centre does not arise".

He also was not aware, he said, of "Brigadier" Shingnya's reported decision to send concrete proposals for talks with the Centre through an emissary in the first week of November.

UNI adds: The Manipur Government has detained under the National Security Act 40 Tangkhul Nagas for allegedly harbouring members of the underground Nationalist socialist Council of Nagaland.

The State Chief Minister, Mr Rishang Keishing, said they had been lodged in Imphal jail. According to police sources, nine of them were Manipur Government employees.

Mr Keishing said security forces in the Ukhrul area had intensified combing operations to check the activities of the underground Nagas.

The Chief Minister said the security forces had sealed the Ukhrul-Burma, border at certain places to check the entry of the members of NSCN from Burma.

He also said the five-member church peace mission to meet Mr Th. Mulvah, general secretary of the NSCN in Burma, was almost ready to go.

Regarding election campaign in the Ukhrul area, Mr Rishang Keishing said campaigning by candidates openly might not be possible, because of the increased threats from the NSCN.

CSO: 5650/0017

INDIA NOT IN FULL ACCORD WITH ILO STANDARDS

Standards Called Unrealistic

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 84 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 16--India, like several developing countries, feels that the standards prescribed by the International Labour Organization are becoming increasingly unrealistic, in the light of conditions prevailing in such countries.

It is felt that undue pressure is exerted by international trade unions for rigid application of ILO standards relating to human rights. Complaints are made alleging violation of freedom of association, which are unrelated to trade union activity. The supervisory body which monitors ILO conventions adopts an unduly legalistic approach, feel the developing countries. They are also way of attempts made at times to link international trade with fair labour standards.

India's views in the matter were voiced by Mr Dharam Vir, Minister of State for Labour, while inaugurating a five-day national tripartite seminar on "International Labour Standards" here yesterday.

The seminar has been organized by the National Labour Institute, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, to discuss implementation of the conventions on hours of work, minimum wage-fixing machinery and employment service, which have already been ratified. It will also consider unratified conventions on maternity benefits, labour administration and social security.

At yesterday's meeting, the Union Labour Secretary, Mr B. G. Deshmukh, suggested that the ILO shift its emphasis from mere formulation to technical co-operation and assistance to member-countries to help them develop their infrastructure and enable them to apply the standards to their countries.

The practical problems relating to the implementation of conventions are to be discussed at the seminar. On the question of minimum wage-fixing machinery, the ILO committee of experts had made certain critical observations regarding non-implementation of the revised minimum wage fixed by the West Bengal Government, in regard to the cinema industry.

Later, in consultation with the State Government, a detailed reply had been sent to the ILO. It was explained that the non-implementation was mainly because some of the employers had sought court intervention and obtained an injunction against the implementation.

Similarly, the seminar will also consider problems on implementing the convention on employment service, in the light of the decision not to accept the Mathew Committee's suggestion that recruitment through employment exchanges should be made compulsory.

Outcome, Recommendations of Meet

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Oct 84 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 19.

A tripartite national seminar on international labour standards, which ended here today, has recommended to the Government to ratify the ILO conventions on minimum standards of social security within a year.

The seminar noted that some of the existing laws in India provided higher benefits than those contemplated in the ILO conventions. It recommended a review of the Employees' State Insurance Act to identify the changes which should help in ratifying conventions concerning maternity benefits.

A number of steps were suggested on ILO conventions and measures needed to further improve the implementation of the adopted conventions.

The seminar also felt that the question of reducing the existing standard of weekly working hours should be considered. There was a trend among various countries towards the reduction of working hours.

The seminar, organised by the National Labour Institute in collaboration with the ILO, was attended by a large number of representatives of workers, employers' organisations, States and foreign experts connected with the formulation of standards.

Wages: On wages, it recommended that the Government should generally accept "without modifications" the unanimous recommendations of the minimum wages advisory board.

Though more and more employments have been covered by fixation of minimum wages, a large number of workers are yet to be covered. Therefore steps should be taken to cover them in a phased manner.

After discussing the constitution and operating procedures of the minimum wages fixing machinery, it said the Government should endeavour to invite nominations from representative organisations of employers and trade unions.

The Labour Departments at the Centre, States and Union Territories through their enforcement staff and other media should inform the workers and employers on the prevailing rates of wages.

All State Governments should entrust the powers of deciding the claims to the Labour Commissioners as has been done at the Centre by the Labour Ministry.

The seminar suggested an effective system of linkage between the national employment

services and all recruiting agencies in Government, public sector and local bodies.

Minister's concern: Delivering the valedictory address, the Labour Minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil expressed concern that less than 25 per cent of the 149 ILO conventions on international labour standards had so far been ratified. He attributed this to the fact that the ILO standards, designed to secure improvement in the working and living conditions of workers, had not been prepared keeping in view the actual conditions prevailing in the developing countries, which formed the bulk of ILO's membership.

It was, therefore, necessary that workers, employers and the Governments should devote greater attention to study the instruments in depth for formulating a realistic stand at the time of adoption of standards by the International Labour Conference.

Replying to the demand made by a labour leader at the seminar that the Government should ratify all ILO conventions, the Minister said India had so far ratified 39 of the 149 ILO conventions. Even the developed countries had not done this.

He said India was not reluctant to ratify the conventions, but there were certain practical difficulties. "What was the use of ratifying the conventions if these could not be implemented", he asked.

Mr. Patil said 95 per cent of the labour force in India was in the unorganised sector mostly in the rural areas. There were many Acts, and more were in the pipeline, to help these people. But the States were not cooperating with the Centre in this process.

He said it was regrettable that trade unions were only concerned about the welfare of the organised labour forming only five per cent of the labour force. But they were doing nothing to "organise the unorganised labour".

UNI reports:

Govt. stand criticised: Representatives of the Central trade unions, including the pro-Congress (I) INTUC, have "strongly disapproved" of the Government's view suggesting "dilution" of the international labour standards.

In a joint statement, they dismissed the official stand as an "attempt to bypass the responsibility of implementing these standards evolved through decades of tripartite consultations in which the Government had also participated".

POUND-DOLLAR FLUCTUATION IMPLICATIONS DISCUSSED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 19.—The rapid decline of the pound sterling in relation to the U.S. dollar has serious implications for India and could lead to a revision of the basis on which the external value of the rupee is worked out.

This is because the bulk of India's foreign exchange reserves—now at a record level—are held in dollars and also because of the impact on the outgo of foreign exchange on account of the cost of imports.

In the middle of September, the foreign exchange reserves were worth Rs 6,238.79 crores and this level was slightly higher than at the same time last year. However, in real terms, taking into account the fall in the external value of the rupee, the reserves have declined.

This is because the Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry express the value of the reserves in rupees. This is highly deceptive in view of the sharp fluctuations of the value of hard currencies in the past year.

While the rupee has remained fairly stable in relation to sterling—or just declined marginally—it has dropped rapidly in relation to the U.S. dollar, the currency in which the bulk of the reserves are held. However, this does not mean much in nominal terms since on paper the value of the reserves has shot up simply because the

dollar rupee rate has risen sharply.

The dollar was being officially sold at Rs 12.44 today because of the continuing rise of the U.S. currency in relation to other hard currencies, particularly sterling to which the rupee is tied because of the decision of the Government to express the external value of the rupee in pounds.

Although the external value of the rupee is worked out in relation to a basket of currencies of countries with which India has trade relations—the dollar, the pound, the German mark and the yen—it is actually expressed in sterling. Since sterling has been falling in value rapidly in relation to the dollar and other hard currencies, the nominal value of the foreign exchange reserves has been rising.

The sterling has fallen by more than 15% in relation to the dollar in the past year and the decline has been particularly marked in the past few weeks. From the level of £1-\$1.40 just a year ago, the exchange rate has dropped to £1-\$1.18 today. This has had an effect not only on the sterling-rupee rate but also the dollar-rupee rate since the basket of currencies affecting the value of the rupee and its trade-weighted exchange rate is inevitably affected.

The result is a devaluation of the external value of the rupee to an extent that is not considered

desirable. Hence the rethinking now in progress on the formula to be adopted in working out the external value of the rupee. An announcement is expected soon.

The drop in the external value of the rupee will inevitably affect the balance of payments because of the widening trade gap. Most of India's trade contacts are expressed in dollars and this makes nearly all imports very expensive. This is only partly compensated by higher earnings in rupees of the country's exports.

What is likely to help India's trade gap in the coming months is the fall in the price of crude and petroleum goods' import. Norway and Britain have cut the price of North Sea crude this week by \$16 a barrel and this has been followed by a cut in prices by Nigeria by \$2 a barrel. Nigeria is a member of OPEC and this could lead to a fall in crude prices across the board by all OPEC members. These are to meet to discuss the turmoil in the oil market by the end of this month and it is virtually certain that a sharp drop in world oil prices is in the offing.

India still imports half of its crude needs and the largest outgo of foreign exchange is on this count. Since heavy crude imports will continue in the near future, a substantial saving could result in foreign exchange if world prices drop as is expected.

CSO: 4600/1079

BORROWING TREND POSES THREAT TO ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] BOMBAY, Oct. 19--The diverse trends in borrowings from the banking system by the Government and the commercial sector have found the Reserve Bank of India in an unprecedented predicament and may pose the danger of distorting the country's economic system.

What has added to the monetary authorities' discomfigure is that they have been helpless to influence the Union Government's liberal recourse to bank credit. The 1.3 per cent decline in the wholesale price index in the first half of September has brought tremendous relief to the country's monetary authorities in the Reserve Bank. The sharp 7.1 per cent rise in the price level in the first five months of the current financial year till the end of August (equal to an annual rate of inflation of around 17 per cent) had put the monetary authorities under severe pressure. Accusing fingers had begun to be pointed at the Reserve bank failure to contain the expansion of money supply, which in the current financial year till mid-September has been of the order of Rs 5,967 crores compared to Rs 5,598 crores in the same period of last year.

By far, the biggest contribution to the expansion in money supply so far this year has been made by the Union Government's borrowings from the banking system. Thus, bank credit to the Government sector expanded by Rs 5,240 crores (or 12.9 per cent) between the end of March and mid-September this year compared to Rs 3,484 crores (or 9.9 per cent) in the comparable period of last year.

By contrast, the rise in bank credit to the commercial sector has been roughly of the same order so far this year (Rs 2,685 crores or 4.5 per cent) as in the same period of last year. Indeed, if bank advances for food procurement by the Food Corporation of India are excluded, bank credit to the commercial sector, it turns out, shows a smaller expansion so far this year at Rs 1,812 crores compared to Rs 1,977 crores last year.

The diverse trends in borrowings from the banking system by the Government and the commercial sector reflect the irony of the Reserve Bank's predicament. Reserve Bank officials admit, in private, that if the situation persists indefinitely, it is fraught with the danger of distorting the monetary system and structure.

Faced with unchecked Government borrowings from the banking system the Reserve Bank's monetary policy has been reduced, for the past over a year, to progressively circumscribing the commercial bank's capacity to expand credit to the commercial sector, in an attempt to contain the overall expansion of money supply. This, it has sought to do by immobilizing successively higher proportions of the bank's deposits by raising the cash reserve ratio.

Thanks to the successive increases in the cash reserve ratio and the statutory liquidity ratio, together with the pressure on banks to lend more to the so-called priority sectors and for food procurement, it has been estimated that only about 20 per cent of the additional deposits mobilized by the banks are available to them for lending at the regular commercial interest rates.

The Reserve Bank officials concede that over a period of time this cannot but affect the bank's incentive to mobilize deposits and expand the coverage of the banking system. Already there had been unmistakeable signs of the spread of banking having slowed down.

Reflecting this, the proportion of currency to total money supply, which had in the wake of the rapid expansion of banking after the nationalization of the major banks come down from about 50 per cent in the 1960s to 24 per cent in 1980-81 had tended to stabilize at around 23 per cent. The incremental ratio of currency to money supply was 19.3 per cent in 1982-83, 21.3 per cent in 1983-84 and 21.9 per cent in 1984-85 till mid-September. The monetary authorities regard this as no less a disturbing aspect of the monetary situation than the galloping expansion in money supply itself.

CSO: 4600/1079

INDIAN AIR FORCE SAID TO FACE TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Oct 84 p 4

[Article by Cecil Victor]

[Text]

The Indian Air Force last week completed its fifty-second anniversary and just one piece of news — the US surveillance of its Jaguar unit — epitomises the entire gamut of responsibilities that lie ahead of it. All the ingenuity and skills of the force have to be geared to tackle a whole new range of challenges posed by the quantum jump in technology that has become available to Pakistan.

The "Jaguar episode" is just one aspect of an increasingly complex security environment around the sub-continent wherein time-frames to achieve success in military missions have become foreshortened and the execution of missions rendered more difficult by the induction of early warning systems, quick-reaction missiles and high-performance deep-penetration aircraft like the F-16s.

The US-Pakistan intelligence-sharing arrangement should not surprise anyone because the very nature of the relationship between the two countries, the military assistance programme and the geo-strategic calculations of the US make it logical that they should also share secrets. For the IAF, however, it creates all sorts of problems if the US spy satellite monitors the movements of its aircraft and informs Pakistan about it.

Technology for such surveillance is so fantastic that from several miles in space the number of aircraft on the ground and in the air can be counted with accuracy and thermal imaging and infra-red devices will reveal the exact positions of even the camouflaged aircraft and "read" the image of an aircraft long departed and thereby learning the strength of the airbase, its strike capability, its defences and

calculate the parameters for an attack upon it.

This revelation of all classified information long before any operations are even planned is by itself a serious disability. Coupled as it is with intelligence briefings by the US that India is about to attack Pakistan's nuclear facility it calls for a preparedness that will have to cater for the possibility of a pre-emptive strike against our installations by design, by miscalculation or even by manipulation of intelligence data fed by parties interested in an Indo-Pak conflict.

Interfaced with this, the low-level surveillance and tracking provided by the Mohawk aircraft (one of which crashed in Karachi in October last year) and the accurate airborne early warning, surface surveillance and strike control provided by the Grumman E-2C Hawkeye which Pakistan is seeking from the US will add to the complexities of air operations by the IAF.

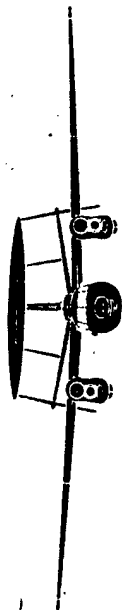
The Indian Air Force is confident that it will negate the deep penetrability and the high manoeuvrability of the newly-acquired F-16s by tactics being developed at the Tactical Air Combat Development Establishment at Jamnagar (where, incidentally, a spy was caught recently for photographing installations for obvious onward transmission to Pakistan). Senior air force officers have indicated that the tactics would emerge from a combination of numbers and introduction of high-performance fighter-interceptors of the MiG family from the Soviet Union.

The IAF's own penetrability — to hit at the war machine deep inside



GRUMMAN E-2C HAWKEYE

Dimensions: Span, 80 ft 7 in (24.56 m); length, 57 ft 7 in (17.55 m); height, 18 ft 4 in (5.69 m); wing area, 700 sq ft (65.03 m²).



GRUMMAN E-2C HAWKEYE

Country of Origin: USA.

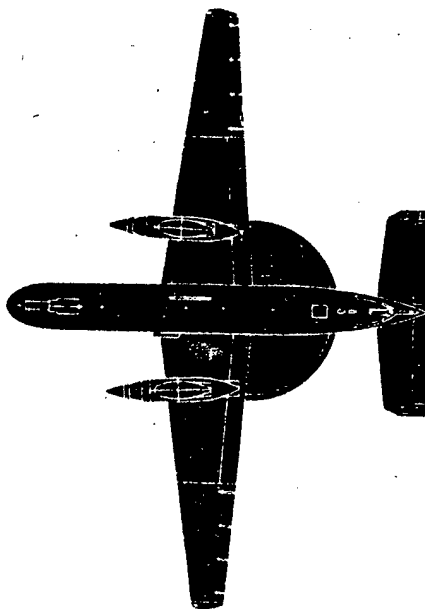
Type: Airborne early warning, surface surveillance and strike control aircraft.

Power Plant: Two 4,910-hp Allison T56-A-425 turboprops.
Performance: Max. speed, 348 mph (560 km/h) at 10,000 ft (3,050 m); max. range, 309 mph (498 km/h); initial climb, 2,515 ft/min (12.8 m/sec); service ceiling, 30,800 ft (9,390 m); mission endurance (at 230 mls/370 km from base), 4.0 hrs; max. endurance, 6.1 hrs; ferry range, 1,604 mls (2,580 km).
Weights: Empty, 38,009 lb (17,240 kg); max. take-off, 51,900 lb (23,540 kg).

Accommodation: Crew of five comprising flight crew of two and Airborne Tactical Data System team of three, each occupying an independent operating station.

Status: First of two E-2C prototypes flown on 20 January 1971, with first production aircraft flying on 23 September 1972. Total US Navy requirement for 101 by 1986, with some 70 delivered by the beginning of 1982, in addition to four to Israel. Eight E-2Cs ordered by Japan with deliveries commencing 1982, and the procurement of four being negotiated by Egypt for 1983 delivery.

Notes: The E-2C followed 59 E-2As (all subsequently updated to E-2B standards) and is able to operate independently, in co-operation with other aircraft, or in concert with ground environments. Two examples of a training version, the TE-2C, have been delivered to the US Navy, and late 1982, the procurement of the E-2C was being considered by France. Production of the E-2C is scheduled to continue through 1986.



Pakistan like airfields, radar, railways, fuel and ammunition dumps and convoys — has been improved by the introduction of the Jaguars whose one-pass attack capability has become necessary by the installation by Pakistan of the Crotale anti-aircraft missile batteries and the large number of mobile anti-aircraft guns. The air environment in Pakistan is such that it would be dangerous to tarry too long over target.

That is the reason why the US is keeping close tabs on the movement of the Jaguar squadrons and reporting it to the Pakistan Air Force. By robbing the IAF of the element of surprise it could also arrange for a "reception committee" of combat air patrol and surface-to-air systems that would render it difficult for the Indian aircraft to launch their weapons on target with accuracy and certainty.

A deep penetration capability is a necessity, as we have learnt by experience, if the IAF is to complete its mission within, as has been mentioned earlier, foreshortened timeframes. In 1971, the armed forces had about two weeks to crush the Pakistani war machine in the eastern sector.

Now the US has set up home in the Indian Ocean littoral, in Diego Garcia and on roll-on, roll-off ships stationed in the Arabian Sea and its ability to intervene anywhere in the region at short notice has been considerably increased. Given the close political and military cooperation between Washington and the Pakistani military dictatorship, it should be presumed by Indian defence planners that it will once again "tilt" towards Islamabad to prevent the carefully-nurtured Pakistani military machine from disaster.

Thus the IAF must be able to combine deep penetration with adequate interdiction of enemy forces and close-support to the ground troops to facilitate their advance. The acquisition of the Mirage-2000s (hopefully in December—already the September deadline has passed in spite of Marcel Dusault assurances given at a Press conference in Delhi) and MiG-27s and MiG-29s will help sanitise the battle zone both behind enemy lines and on the front to enable a concerted advance along a wide area, or conversely, prevent the enemy from doing so.

The Indian Air Force has been particularly good at using the equipment at its disposal to overcome a technologically superior enemy. It did so against the much-vaunted Sabrejets 1971 with the diminutive Gnats and one cannot help but be confident that the Tactical Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) will come up with methods to handle the F-16s as well.

Much, of course, depends on training and engineering back-up to keep both man and machine fit for combat. The effect of the "deep selection" promotion policy of the mid-70s is beginnings to wear off and the IAF can claim an improved morale. The number of air accidents is explained as being part of realistic combat training at low levels where tomorrow's air battles will be fought. As Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal L M Katre Said at the anniversary parade, the IAF will have to live up to the trust implicit in the provision of sophisticated weaponry from foreign sources by the Government of India to meet a threat that is acknowledgedly formidable.

CSO: 4600/1078

NO PROOF OF NUCLEAR UMBRELLA OFFER TO PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 84 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10.

The Government of India has no information about the reported U.S. offer of a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan if it gave up attempts to acquire nuclear weapons.

The Pakistani daily *Nawai Waqt* has published a report, quoting unnamed White House sources, that this offer had been made by President Reagan.

It is considered highly unlikely that the U.S. President would make such a commitment in the midst of an election campaign, much less that any White House source would talk of it.

As Pakistan does not face a nuclear threat from any power, least of all from India which has no nuclear weapons, there is no need for such a guarantee at present. In any case, no Super Power like the U.S. would enter into a commitment of this kind without considering the serious consequences of the Soviet Union offering similar assurances to other countries in the region.

After the first Chinese nuclear test, the then Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, had sought assurances of a Nuclear umbrella for India from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. But neither responded to this request, since nuclear protection was something that could not be dealt with compartmentally in this fashion.

Motives: It is quite possible that some interested persons in the Pakistan Government have floated this story in the hope of provoking a strong Indian reaction. It cannot be ruled out either that the *Nawai Waqt*, which like the rest

of the Pakistani press is notoriously anti-Indian, has invented this story simply to cause some stir in the sub-continent.

There have been reports that Pakistan has either already acquired nuclear capability or is about to do so with such help as it is receiving clandestinely from abroad. The U.S. itself has talked of China secretly passing on the bomb designs to Pakistan, while some others have alleged that this is part of a *quid pro quo* between Islamabad and Beijing for passing on in return the details of the centrifuge technology for enrichment obtained illegally by Pakistan from the Netherlands.

It is known that some written correspondence has taken place between the U.S. and Pakistan Governments on the subject and that Washington is seeking written assurances from Islamabad—that it has no intention of embarking on a weapons programme—to mollify congressional opinion. But it is anybody's guess whether the U.S. will contemplate offering a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan to keep it out of the nuclear arms race, because it will inevitably provoke Moscow to come forward with similar assurances to other countries in the region.

PTI reports: According to *Nawai Waqt* Mr. Reagan has made the offer in a personal letter to President Zia.

It said in a despatch from Washington, quoting sources close to the White House, that the U.S. was ready to hold out assurances and devise special arrangements for the security of Pakistan, should Gen. Zia shelve the nuclear programme.

CSO: 4600/1069

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEMOS PREFERRED IN DEFENSE PURCHASES

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 10--The Government of India is keen on signing a broad-based inter-governmental memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each country supplying defence equipment, binding them irrevocably to continue to transfer technology, provide spare parts, replenish ammunition stocks and co-operate in the production of the acquired weapon systems as long as they are in use.

The practice hitherto has been to have MOU's for each transaction, but the emphasis now is on having over-all agreements at the governmental level covering all defence deals, so that no country could resile from its contractual obligations on the basis of its domestic legislation or other considerations.

Apart from the Soviet Union with which India has a broad understanding at the governmental level for defence cooperation, the only western country that has so far signed such an omnibus MOU with it is France. The other western countries like Britain and West Germany have MOUs covering individual transactions, like the Jaguar, Harrier and Sea King purchases from U.K. and the submarine deal with Bonn.

Talks with U.K.: The Government of India has been exchanging drafts and negotiating with London since 1982 for a comprehensive inter-governmental MOU with Britain. But these protracted negotiations are still inconclusive, since Britain has not been able to agree to the kind of broad-based understanding that India has been insisting on without any reservations.

The French Government signed the MOU to pave the way for the Mirage-2000 deal and also evolve a mutually acceptable basis for long-term cooperation in the design, development and manufacture of next generation weapon system. The British Government, too, has been striving for such an understanding as long-term cooperation so that India could avail itself of the expertise of its defence scientists and manufacturing establishment engaged in this highly sophisticated business of keeping abreast of global advances.

The other countries which have been interested in signing such umbrella agreements with India, despite their limited applicability at present, are Austria, Italy and Sweden. As it so happened, these three have been competing with France for the supply of 155 mm artillery for the Indian Army at an estimated value of Rs. 1,600 crores.

But the Indian Army experts have opted for the French gun, both in its self-propelled and towed versions, because of its superior range, mobility and fire-control systems. Austria has practically lost the race, while Sweden is still in the picture for a limited extent in the sense that the gun offered by it can be supplied only in a towed version.

Italy's offer: The Italian Defence Minister, Mr. Giovanni Spadolini, did say during his visit to Delhi last week that his country was ready to supply 155 mm artillery manufactured in collaboration with Britain and West Germany which has been purchased by Saudi Arabia and Japan. But Italy has not been a serious contender since the original British version of this gun has not been approved by Indian experts.

The main Italian interest is in entering into a collaboration agreement for initial sale of equipment and subsequent cooperation in the manufacture of advanced electronic warfare systems. A memorandum of understanding is due to be signed with Italy.

Swedish Minister arrives: Meanwhile, the Defence Minister of Sweden, Mr. Anders Thunberg, arrived in Delhi today on a seven-day trip to return the visit to his country by the former Defence Minister and present Vice-President, Mr. R. Venkataraman. He will be pursuing the Swedish offer for the supply of the 155 mm gun during his talks in Delhi.

The Swedes lost the big deal for the supply of Viggin, the deep penetration strike aircraft, although it was considered to be superior to the British-built Jaguar, because of the difficulties in contracting for the U.S. designed engines of this aircraft. Now Sweden does not want to lose an equally big contract to France for the supply of the 155 mm field guns that India wants to buy, 200 in self-propelled and another 200 in towed versions along with spares and ammunition.

CSO: 4600/1069

OBJECTIVES OF DEFENSE DEALINGS WITH MOSCOW TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Oct. 13--The Defence Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, will be paying a four-day visit to Moscow from October 30 for high-level talks with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, on the next phase of Indo-Soviet defence cooperation.

He will also be meeting the Soviet President, Mr. Konstantin Chernenko, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov, besides other senior personalities in the Kremlin who are closely associated with Indo-Soviet relations.

The Defence Minister will be accompanied by a high-power delegation which among others will include the Defence Secretary, Mr. S. K. Bhatnagar, in the Vice Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, senior officials of defence production and the Scientific Adviser, Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, to assist him in his talks with the Soviet leaders on India's defence requirements.

The trip is officially described as a reciprocal gesture to return the visit of Marshal Ustinov, who came to India in February this year with a very formidable Soviet team to discuss every aspect of the on-going Indo-Soviet defence cooperation and upgrade the level to provide for the supply of the latest weapon systems to meet India's needs in the changing security environment of the South Asian region. The Ustinov visit also opened the way for long-term cooperation in defence sciences to enable India to develop an indigenous capability for designing and manufacturing advanced weaponry

Mr. Bhatnagar had gone to Moscow recently to discuss the details of the broad understanding reached during Marshal Ustinov's visit to meet India's current requirements. The Soviet Government agreed to make available to India the latest improvements made in the avionics of MIG-27 and MIG-29 aircraft, the equipment of T-72 tanks and other systems for electronic warfare.

Early warning system: One of the items that India is seeking on a high-priority basis is an early warning airborne system for the Air Force to detect enemy aircraft and also guide its planes' operational missions to match the AWACS that U.S. is giving Pakistan. The Navy is also keen on getting some advanced equipment for its missile vessels engaged in both offensive and defensive operations.

The Defence Minister is not going to Moscow to enter into any new arms deals as such with the Soviet Union, since the existing arrangements entitled India to avail itself of any new advances made by the Soviet defence scientists in the improvement of the existing weaponry or development of new systems. But many questions arise from time to time about the degree of accessibility depending on India's needs as assessed by the Soviet Union besides financial factors.

CSO: 4600/1089

BRIEFS

INDO-CZECH TRADE PACT--New Delhi, Oc. 11 (UNI)--India and Czechoslovakia have signed a new five-year trade agreement which takes effect from January 1 next year. The agreement, signed recently puts stress on continuance of the existing bilateral clearing arrangements under which payments for all commercial and non-commercial transactions will be made in non-convertible Indian rupee. The two countries will also grant each other the most favoured nation (MFN) treatment in respect of all internal taxes, laws, regulations and requirements for exports and imports. The two sides also identified several new items and underscored the need to enlarge economic cooperation and strive for speedy development and better utilisation of resources and production facilities on a mutually beneficial basis. Czechoslovakia mainly supplies to India steel and steel products, seamless pipes, tubes and casings, textile and printing machinery and other capital goods. In turn, India exports de-oiled cakes, iron ore, cotton yarn and other traditional goods and non-traditional items like finished leather, woollen and synthetic fabrics, machine tools and readymade garments. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 12 Oct 84 p 9]

INCORRECT MAP NOTED--New Delhi, Oct. 11 (PTI)--Jane's defence weekly has wrongly depicted the line of control between India and Pakistan, according to defence experts. In its latest issue, the journal has given a considerable chunk of Indian territory to Pakistan and shown the Karakoram pass within Pakistan. While it is generally accepted that the line of control is demarcated only up to a point and does not reach up to the India-China border, Jane's weekly has extended it right up to Sino-Indian border. Experts say such "misleading delineation" coupled with unwarranted assurances by the United States on Pakistan's security created misperception about the line of control among the Pakistani leadership "prompting them" to embark on military adventures. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 12 Oct 84 p 4]

MUSLIM LEAGUE CANDIDATES--MADRAS, Oct. 22--The Indian Union Muslim League has decided to field candidates for 16 Lok Sabha constituencies in nine States and the Union territory of Delhi on the basis of the preliminary survey conducted by the party's Central Parliamentary Board. The Board took the decision at its meeting here today. Mr. Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait, party chief, presided. The States where the party will put up candidates are: Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P., Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and Delhi. Electoral surveys in respect of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat are still in progress and consultations of the Kerala State Muslim League with

the local units are not yet over. Decisions in respect of these States will be taken at the next meeting of the Board to be held in Delhi shortly, according to a statement issued by Mr. G. M. Banatwallah, general secretary of the party. The Board has reiterated that elections in Assam should be held on the basis of the 1979 electoral rolls. The party expressed satisfaction over the discussions held so far with leaders of other Opposition parties on seat adjustments. In Tamil Nadu, it noted that the Opposition front consisting of DMK, Muslim League and other parties had been functioning well and the State unit was asked to hold talks with other parties. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Oct 84 p 9]

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION--NEW DELHI, Oct. 13--The production of crude oil in India went up by 12.3 per cent to 13.878 million tonnes during the first six months of the current financial year from 12.363 million tonnes the corresponding period of 1983-84. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission accounted for 12.477 million tonnes, and the rest was produced by Oil India Limited. In the case of the ONGC the increase was 14.5 per cent. Oil production from Bombay High offshore wells registered a 16.8 per cent growth with 9.479 million tonnes during the period April-September against 8.113 million tonnes of the corresponding period last year. The aggregate production of the country's 12 refineries was 16.9 million tonnes during these six months compared to 17.146 million tonnes last year. The slight fall in refinery output was attributed to the shutdown of the Cochin Refinery for reconstruction following the fire of March last. This refinery had produced during the first six months of last year 1.557 million tonnes. The Bharat Petroleum Refineries at Bombay and the Madras Refineries produced 22.1 per cent more this half year than during the corresponding period last year. The Bongaigaon Refineries registered an 18.4 per cent growth in output. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Oct 84 p 6]

PACT WITH POLAND--India and Poland on Monday signed an agreement to develop and widen the existing cooperation between the two countries in the field of health and medical science. The two countries agreed to cooperate in the field of scientific research carried out in the research institutions, exchange of scientists, participation in scientific symposia and conferences and exchange of experiences in the field of organisation of medical education and medical statistics. Mr B Shankaranand, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and his Polish counterpart, Mr Tadeusz Szelachowski signed the agreement at a simple ceremony in New Delhi. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 84 p 5]

UAE ASKS HELP--The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is understood to have sought India's help to end the 49-month old Gulf war, which has flared up recently, reports UNI. Mr Rashed Abdullah-al-Noaimi, special envoy of UAE President Shaikh Zayed Bin-Sultan-al-Nahyan, made a flying visit to New Delhi to deliver a special message to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Thursday afternoon, reportedly regarding the Gulf war. The UAE President is understood to have urged Mrs Gandhi, as the Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement, to use her influence to bring about peace in the region. Mr Noaimi returned with a special message from Mrs Gandhi for the Sultan, who is leaving for an official visit of West Germany on Friday. Mr Noaimi was accompanied by Mohammed

Samhan, Director of the Department of Arabian countries, Mr Abdul Aziz in Nas-ser-al-Owaisi and two other officials. Before his departure for Abu Dhabi, he refused to disclose the contents of communication he had given to Mrs Gandhi. However, he admitted that India as the head of the Non-Aligned Movement is taking initiatives in defusing the crisis in the world. He was seen off by Minister of State for External Affairs Ram Niwas Mirdha and Foreign Secretary J K Rasgotra. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Oct 84 p 1]

INDIA-OMAN TAXATION PACT--India and Oman on Tuesday signed an agreement in Delhi for the avoidance of double taxation of income from international air transport between them, reports UNI. The agreement will come into force after the two Governments notify each other of the completion of the procedures. It was signed by Joint Secretary in the Finance Ministry C K Tikku and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in India to the Sultanate of Oman Abdulla Bin Saeed Bin Rashid Al-Balushi. The agreement is the result of talks held between the two governments at delegation level since October 1982. Under the agreement, income derived by the designated enterprise of one country engaged in international air traffic will be exempted from tax in the other country. The provisions of the agreement would apply retrospectively in respect of earnings of the airlines of the two countries arising from 1 January 1971, says an official release. The assessment in respect of the period prior to 1 January 1971 would not be reopened, the release adds. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Oct 84 p 2]

INDO-SWEDISH DEFENSE TALKS--NEW DELHI, Oct. 10--The Defence Ministers of India and Sweden today reviewed here cooperation on defence between the two countries and agreed to explore areas of collaboration in research and development and technology transfer. The Swedish Defence Minister, Mr Anders Thungorg, who arrived here today on a week's visit to India, had what was officially described as wide-ranging discussions on matters of mutual interest. India's Defence Minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, was assisted in the talks by the Minister of State for Defence, Mr K. P. Singh Deo, the Defence Secretary, Mr S. K. Bhatnagar, the Secretary for Defence Production, Mr. M. C. Sarin, the Secretary for Research and Development, Dr V. S. Arunachalam, and the three services chiefs, General A. S. Vaidya, Admiral O. S. Dawson and Air Chief Marshal L. M. Katre. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 84 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1088

TUDEH PARTY MESSAGE TO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

TA191232 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Nov 84

["Text" of message by Tudeh Party Central Committee to Socialist International]

[Text] Dear friends, authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are determined to put on trial, as of 12 November, a number of leaders and members of the central cadre of the Iranian Tudeh Party. The aim of this trial, which is being held contrary to all legal principles and mores, and which is inconsistent with the stipulations of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the human rights charter, is to eliminate some of the best offspring of our country.

The accused have been languishing in prison for about 2 years, and during this period they have been constantly subjected to the most brutal physical and mental tortures. Now, executioners of the Islamic Republic--this medieval despotic regime--intend to [words indistinct], the aim of which is to eliminate the accused. Our (?objective) is to defend the lives of these prisoners, whose only offense is defense of right, freedom, and social justice. This is the duty of all humanitarian people throughout the world.

At the same time, we believe that exposing the crimes of a regime that is hanging over the nation like a nightmare is a sublime, humanitarian duty. So far, more than tens of thousands of the Iranian Nation's worthy offspring--whether men or women, young or old, and (?belonging) to various faiths and religions--have been shot to death by the Islamic Republic's executioners. [?Several) thousands are languishing in prison. The most savage tortures are a routine matter in Iranian prisons. Leaders of the Islamic Republic consider torture to be a Shari'a duty and a source of pride. What is occurring today in Iran is not only an insult to the Iranian people but to the people at the entire world.

Dear friends, we ask you to help us save the lives of the innocent people who are on trial in Tehran. Prevent the regime's executioners from committing a new dreadful crime by dispatching legal and (?medical) experts to Iran, and by attending the sham disgraceful trials. We should end Iran's tragedy through a joint struggle. Not only the Iranian people but Iran's history, culture, and ancient civilization must be saved from the clutches of a number of uncultured people. The fathers and mothers, the wives and children of the accused Tudeh members are expecting the start of an international campaign to save their dear ones. Struggle to liberate them is an international humanitarian duty.

[Signed] Respectfully, Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party. [Dated] 10 November 1984.

IRAN

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OPEN ONLY TO DRAFT VOLUNTEERS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] This group will engage in studying after they are admitted and will then complete the remainder of their military service.

All soldiers with high school diplomas may participate twice in the nationwide entrance examination for universities. Those who are admitted may finish their military service after the completion of their education.

These instructions recently issued by the president to the general military service office also concern persons who are eligible but have not been drafted. Such persons can register in the universities. Therefore, all high school graduates who have not been drafted can participate in the nationwide entrance examination, provided they report to the military service office of their area. At the present time, those born during the period 21 March 1965-20 March 1967 who have passed the examinations may register in the universities without their draft certificates and those born during the period 21 March 1963-20 March 1965, if they have graduated this year, may register without draft certificates.

According to this report, all those who have draft certificates and are not absentees and those with permanent or temporary exemptions may register. Except for these individuals, all high school graduates who were born during the first four months of the year of their birth must on 10 November of this year report to the military service office of their area. Those born during the following eight months, if they have draft cards dated 9 November, will be drafted in accordance with regulations to be announced later.

10,000

CSO: 4640/122

IRAN

MESHKINI: ENEMIES IN UNIVERSITIES SHOULD BE FEARED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] On the eve of 4 November, the anniversary of the exile of the imam to Turkey and the siege of the spy nest, the participants in the first nationwide congress of Muslim university students met in Qom with Ayatollah Meshkini, the speaker of the Assembly of Experts and Friday imam of Qom, last night. In this meeting, Ayatollah Meshkini made an important speech concerning current issues regarding the universities, the full text of which follows:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

Many thanks and endless praise to God, Who created our bodies in the best way possible. Thanks to Him Who blessed our bodies with souls, our souls with wisdom, our wisdom with knowledge, our knowledge with faith, our faith with action, our action with sincerity, our sincerity with reward, and our reward with immortality.

Thanks to Him Who made us, among the nations of the world, Muslims who follow His religion, propagate His laws, serve His book and bring His message. What could be a higher blessing for our spirits and words than: Thank God, for He guides us and protects us from what may not be God's way.

I welcome the noble friends, brothers, sisters, and soldiers of the Imam of the Age, and the students of the school of the Koran and the schools of Imams Baqer and Sadeq. I am very happy to meet you and I am sorry for not always being with you friends.

If you think about it, you will realize that all the university and other students who follow the Islamic line are in my humble heart. I hope, God willing, that God Almighty will spread His

religion and book through your exalted efforts and will raise the flag of the Koran with your power of faith throughout the whole country and the world.

Below, following a tradition, I will say a few sentences for my friends. Of course, I read this narration for the theological students and since you are also seekers of knowledge and students, you will, God willing, follow the goal of Islam.

'Ali said: If those who seek knowledge do so justly (what is meant is that studying should be coupled with action and piety), as a result, they will be loved by God and His angels and will find a place in the hearts of human beings and committed Muslims.

The Koran says: God will soon fill hearts with the love of those who believe and follow their faith.

Once the students were separate from the nation. When a person from a village or an out-of-the-way city entered the university as a student, after a few years, he felt alienated from his parents and environment and looked down on them. He would look with admiration upon the United States and Americans. All of our students, with the exception of a small number, suffered from this malady. But today, this is not the case. Today, you consider all of them your brothers and have prepared yourselves to serve the nation.

'Ali said: Previously, I had a friend who was in my mind very important and great, because the world was very small in his opinion and his motivations were high. God willing, you are like that and will be like that.

Continuing that tradition, it is stated: "Nevertheless, they went and sought knowledge for this world, their bellies and lives." During the time of the tyrant, I was ill. I went to a doctor's office for treatment. A student came in and saw that the doctor regularly sees patients, receives money from them, and places the money in the drawer of his desk. This student took a look, sighed, and said: When will I be able to have an office like this to write prescriptions and collect money? I saw that the ultimate goal of this young man was to collect and accumulate money in order to have a car and go to the seaside. Woe to the person who sells himself for anything but paradise. 'Ali said: Beware, my Shi'ites, the price of this body, even though it might be decrepit, is paradise. Do not sell it for less to this world. If they give you the whole earth and you sell yourself for it, I swear to God, you will suffer a loss, because today we are here and tomorrow somewhere else. Which one of us was here a hundred years ago? All the cells of our body were scattered in the water, air, soil and fruits and will be the same again in a hundred years and will be lost in this world. The poet says:

Razi, like a drop of water which was separated from the sea, came to the jug and returned once again to the sea. This is our situation in this world. I have several worries. One is that it is heard that there are differences of taste within the universities. Two people cannot think alike. Differences, in my opinion, are natural. But if differences in opinion result in differences in words, then differences in writing, then differences in action, and ultimately killings, it is harmful. I am afraid that, God forbid, these differences of opinion among the beloved united Muslim students who have faith in the revolution will result in disunity. Exchanges of opinion are of course beneficial. As 'Ali said: A question is the male and an answer is the female [Arabic].

Students, professors, those of you who are committed and believe in Islam, sit together and do not allow differences to go beyond the stage of student arguments and pro and con statements. Preserve your unity and be sincere and loyal to each other so that the enemies will not even have the ability to think. Protect the strong trenches of your universities. I have said to friends that your enemies consider that place (the university) more important than the battle fronts.

Your efforts, unity, and confrontation with the enemies of Islam there are much more important than the fronts.

For our enemies to penetrate there (universities) would be more important than being victorious on the war fronts.

Another matter is that I am afraid that the issue of the absorption of forces, which is very important and praiseworthy, might sometimes cause damages which cannot be repaired later on.

You must attract those individuals who do not oppose the revolution, because we need experts. Islam seeks knowledge and specialization. No ideology or religion praises knowledge or respects experts as much as Islam does.

Attract those who are not conspirators and benefit from their knowledge.

But some people are so impudent that when they are accepted into the universities they begin to criticize. Such individuals have not taken one step for Islam and this country in their whole life. After a few days in the university, they began to make demands on the people, speak against the people and the revolution, and engage in conspiracies through their teaching, speeches, and writings. Such individuals are more harmful than beneficial. We have learned by experience that any sort of knowledge without piety is more harmful than beneficial. Friends, note that you did not become victorious in your fight

against the Pahlavis because of your expertise and you do not advance on the fronts because of it. To be sure, the experts did not accomplish all of this. We want experts, but expertise without piety is harmful. I will recite a tradition for the theological students from Imam Sadeq, which is mentioned in "Osul-e Kafi" [Kafi's Principles]. He said: Those who possess expertise, knowledge and science but have no piety are more harmful to my religion than the army of Yazid, son of Mo'avieyeh.

You must know that Satan is an expert in everything, in anything that you could imagine. Satan deceives a first rate religious jurist by the methods that he knows; that is why we have the sayings: The Satan of the religious jurist is the religious jurist of Satan [Arabic] or, the greatest Satan is the most learned of Satans [Arabic]. Therefore, we want experts with piety. An expert without piety is harmful. Of course, if you confer a position on a pious person who lacks expertise, it is also harmful, but not like the reverse. I am afraid that, God forbid, through the absorption of forces, some will be attracted, but you may lose the universities.

The university must be an environment for divine inspiration and a school of virtue. Gradually, the university professor must be a person following whom all the students can perform their prayers.

All experts must be absorbed in the universities and other centers, provided the conspirators are not absorbed. Those must be absorbed who would not misguide the revolution and would not take the university away from you. Collect your senses and protect the universities. If you do not pay attention, they will take the universities from you. Another matter is that I am afraid that you might not preserve the committed people well. The situation with the students is like that with the theological students. We are now faced with the problem that most of our theological students who are committed and faithful and empathize with the revolution and Islam have left their studies and are spending their lives in executive affairs, on the fronts, and in offices and other places. The result is that some of the counterrevolutionaries who studied hard day and night and only complained once in a while were left behind. Now, when they both take their examinations, the other person is unable to get a good grade while this latter advances. Of course, we have told the honorable teachers of the theological center that they must help such individuals to gradually make up their studies, lest such individuals be set aside. If such should be the case, tomorrow the counterrevolutionaries will become victorious. Both the theological center and the universities are faced with this problem.

I request that help be extended to whoever has served the nation and helped the revolution anywhere and is now behind.

I seriously remind the operators of the universities and those in charge of affairs that these persons must be warmly admitted with open arms, must be given a chance, must be helped, and must be given resources for them to gradually catch up.

Let us not reject from the universities the committed people with such an excuse, and let those gentlemen laugh at the children of the revolution and say, forget them. As a result, tomorrow, Sharif-Emamis will be trained in the universities. I am afraid of this problem. The committed people must be retained and these young people must be praised. A large number of these students were cut to pieces and were martyred on the fronts. Some of them are now in the prisons of Saddam. Why are they treated like this?

Well, the other gentleman has stayed home and studied and now he is able to get a good grade. Help the committed people; manage the universities yourselves; and cleanse the environment of the university.

Another issue that I would like to speak on, and which causes me much sorrow, is that it is said that in a university with more than 4,000 students, no more than 100 persons come to prayers. I consider this problem a calamity. Our revolution has not matured yet, why should its universities be like this? Oh, young people, with your efforts, the lives of congregational prayers must be long and prayers must be performed in the universities more magnificently than ever before.

More attention must be paid to the universities. I tell you students, if you witness deviations, cry out, come and tell the people, the clerics, the Majlis, the speaker of the Majlis, the president, and others.

The people are Muslims and their faith is strong. Rest assured that the people will help you. I will not trouble you more than I have. I hope this will not be our last meeting and I am obliged to you for being kind to come to see me. God willing, if the opportunity arises, there are other issues that I will speak about at the proper time.

My final comment to you, beloved students, is that if you are reformed in your hearts, you can be sure that God will help you. Have faith in God and fight your carnal desires. This vast world is like an endless desert through which you must travel. You must have a reason and a guide and must follow him. This world is like a fire temple full of fire lit by the Nimrods of the world. Every Muslim must divine his blessings. Devote part of

your time to your studies and another part to political and social issues.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Meshkini, the speaker of the Assembly of Experts and Friday imam of Qom, responded to the questions of those present.

10,000

CSO: 4640/119

CLANDESTINE RADIO NOTES GROWING DESERTIONS

GF192032 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 84 p 4

[Text] The number of desertions among armed forces personnel is increasing compared to previous months. According to reports by our correspondents in Tehran, Shiraz, Mashhad, Zahedan, and Kermanshah, desertions are on the rise. (?The execution of three armed forces personnel) who had fled their posts in Khorasan claiming leave has not frightened the armed forces personnel.

Our correspondents reported that the number of armed forces personnel who no longer can stand the orders of the mullahs and leave their posts is very high. It used to be the guards and mobilization personnel who deserted their posts or who used to desert their units at the fronts during battle. However, now it is the armed forces personnel including NCOS and a number of officers who have followed suit.

The regime in Tehran has declared 24 November - 5 December as "mobilization week" in hope of attracting people to serve as cannonfodder at the fronts. Parts of the secret and lengthy report delivered to Ruhollah Khomeyni by Qasem 'ali Zahirnezhad concerning the chaotic situation at military bases, shortages, and desertions by guards is now passing from hand to hand in Tehran. According to this report, which is one of the most secret documents of the regime, the armed forces are incapable of an effective military attack against Iraq for at least the next 6 months and sporadic military operations are solely a tactic to maintain what is left of army morale at the fronts while also keeping people at home busy.

According to reports by our correspondents, the new chief of the joint staff, Colonel Sohrabi, has said that the counterintelligence unit of the army recently discovered an espionage team of the Mojahedin-e Khalq who had stolen military secrets and handed them over to the enemy. They were executed by firing squad after a military trial.

CSO: 4640/132

IRAN

RAILROAD CHIEF DISCUSSES EXPANSION PLANS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Nov 84 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Minister of Roads and General Director of Railroads Engineer Seyyed Abolhasan Khamushi by KEYHAN; date and place not specified]

[Text] In an interview with KEYHAN, Engineer Seyyed Abolhasan Khamushi, deputy minister of roads and general director of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained railroad plans concerning the transportation of goods and passengers, the expansion of the networks and lines and steps taken towards the self-sufficiency of the railroads.

First, concerning the railroad plans for operating out-of-service locomotives and providing new engines, he said: In the past, the engines for the railroad were procured from the United States. However, under the present circumstances, other countries besides the United States also produce these engines. Furthermore, we produce some of the parts that can be manufactured in Iran and we procure what we have to from abroad through countries other than the supporters of the United States. Considering the economic plans of the Islamic Republic, efforts have been made to choose high quality brands which can be manufactured in Iran and if economically feasible, they will be produced by the joint committee of the railroads and the Ministry of Industries.

Concerning the number and procedure for the procurement of freight and passenger cars and the plans of the railroads to increase the transportation capacity, the director of the railroads said: In the area of increasing our capacity, we procure our needs through Pars railroad car manufacturing. We recently purchased 2,750 cars, some of which were delivered and the remainder will be delivered by spring of 1986. Now, the railroad has 12,000 freight cars and 700 passenger cars. The average life of passenger cars is about 20 years. We plan to increase this number by 400 within the next two years. Also, 410

cars were reconstructed during the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984 and will be put into operation.

Concerning the transportation activities of railroads last year and this year, he said: Transportation resources last year were 10 million tons of goods and 7 million passengers. With these resources, 10 million tons of cargo and 6,400,000 passengers were moved. Considering the increase and reconstruction of engine power this year, the railroad transportation capacity has increased. This capacity has reached a figure of 13 million tons of cargo and 7 million passengers. In practice, in the last 6 months, 5,400,000 tons of cargo and about 4 million passengers have been moved, which shows a growth of 10 percent in regards to cargo and 20 percent in regards to passengers compared to the first 6 months of last year.

Concerning the expansion of railroad networks and the improvement of the lines throughout the country, Engineer Khamushi said: At the present time, except for the creation of the Bafeq-Bandar 'Abbas network, we have no other network expansion. God willing, according to the projected plans, operation in this area will be completed during the period 21 March 1988-20 March 1989 and will be put into operation during the following year.

In regards to the improvement and increase of some areas, the project to double the Tehran-Qom line began this year and if there are no problems, it will be put into operation within the next five years. The implementation of the project to double the Bandar Emam-Ahvaz line began during the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983 and will be operational during the period 21 March 1986-20 March 1987. Also, a project for the creation of a large Qom station and the extension of the Qom stations has been prepared. With the expansion of the network, when the Bandar 'Abbas center is put into operation, this capacity will increase to 25 million tons of cargo and 9 million passengers, which adds a total of 8,000 freight cars, 400 passenger cars, and 200 engines to the transportation equipment.

Also, in the area of the improvement and upkeep of railroads, we work in three stages to increase the life of the lines. First is upkeep, which is an ongoing task, in which we eliminate the small problems along the rails. Second is the improvement stage, in which we carry out heavier operations. And in a more important stage, some of the rails are reconstructed. On the whole, in the networks throughout the country, about 1,300 km of rails must be completely reconstructed. A part of this is along the Tehran-Mashhad line and another part along the Tehran-Mianeh roads. The reconstruction operations for these lines began during the period 21 March 1977-20 March 1978 and, God willing, if the reconstruction of the Tehran-Mashhad line is completed by the end of next year, we will be able to study and implement a plan to

increase the speed of trains in this area. Also, the reconstruction of the Tehran-Mianeh line in the Qazvin area is completed, and this year, the reconstruction of this line from Karaj to Tehran and Qazvin began.

In regards to the problems of transporting cargo and passengers, the director general of railroads said: Our main problem is in Tehran, because Tehran does not have the capacity to receive cargo from the southern roads of Bandar Emam and the southern part of the country, since not only does cargo have to enter Tehran, but it also has to be sent from Tehran to the north. The Tehran line does not have the capacity for this job. By doubling the Tehran-Qom line, this problem will be resolved. However, in order to solve the problem temporarily, we have a plan to extend the stations between Tehran and Qom, whereby the capacity to handle cargo transportation will be increased by 50 percent in this area.

Concerning railroad plans to attain self-sufficiency, he said: If by self-sufficiency is meant the manufacturing of parts and machinery economically, we have not reached that stage because we import the simplest parts, from railroad tie screws to diesel engines. But we have taken steps in the area of manufacturing parts with consideration for the resources, and they have achieved results. The innovators and inventors have succeeded in manufacturing parts with the help of the railroads. An important part which has been manufactured in this connection is the diesel cylinder, which, compared to similar foreign parts, is well made. Also, small parts, such as copper cylinder head washers, all kinds of triple o ring valves (for the brakes), main and backup generator carbons, combustion chambers for Hitachi cranes, diesel fuel filters, electric diesel cylinder heads, gears for cooling fans, electric diesel cylinder faucets, railcar brake shoes, railcar wheels, cast iron rings for electric diesel engines, special teflon washers for cylinder heads, repairing cylinder head washers for cylinder heads, repairing cylinder head washers and other kinds of washers, coils for railroad car brakes, cylinder covers for electric diesel engines, turbocharger filters, elbow water pipes for diesel engines, various kinds of railroad cars, washers for passenger car (buzhi) caps, cylinder bushes for Hitachi diesel engines, (Zimmens) electric needles, and wheel bearing shock absorbers, are built at the technical and industrial facilities of the workshops and institutions and, upon approval by the railroads, they are used. In addition, many of the railroad programs which were handled by foreign contractors are now handled by Iranian experts with existing resources. The reconstruction of the lines is another activity of the railroads in the area of self-sufficiency. Also, the production of concrete ties, general repairs on locomotive chambers, and building compartments are carried out with the innovations of the brothers of the railroads. However, these activities are not

counted as self-sufficiency in the main industry, but are considered as crafts in the metal works industries. On the whole, if there are any problems in regards to parts, we have the experts and equipment to handle our needs.

In conclusion, concerning the situation and procedure regarding the railroad budget, the director general of the railroads said: The current budget of the railroads is provided from two sources. One is transportation revenues and the other is government aid, in equal proportions. However, since the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983, government aid has gradually decreased and is made up for by railroad revenues, so that this year, government aid is about 30 percent.

10,000

CSO: 4640/121

IRAN

KARACHI OPHTHALMOLOGISTS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO TREAT IRANIANS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] Ahvaz, KEYHAN correspondent. A group of Pakistan ophthalmologists who are offering treatment services, including eye surgery, at Sina hospital in Ahvaz, which have been sent by the Ministry of Health, met and spoke with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Ahvaz.

In this meeting, after the members of the group were introduced by Dr Vazirian, the director of the regional health organization of Khuzestan Province, the supervisor of the group expressed his pleasure in offering medical services in Iran and said:

In Pakistan, from the common people to the president, all are interested in helping the Islamic country of Iran. In this connection, an instruction was even issued by the president to the physicians to provide Iran with any sort of help that Iran requests.

He added: In Iran, there are many people who go to Spain because of eye illnesses at great costs. Considering that spending even one dollar outside Iran is important to you, these patients, if they wish, can come to Karachi. We will pay all the costs in our country and all they will have to pay is the cost of their ticket to and from Pakistan.

This report adds: In this meeting, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Ahvaz, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri, also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the activities of this group in Iran. Addressing the members of the group, he said: Considering that it does not appear that there is a medical crisis in your country, it would be very desirable if you could provide our needs in the area of ophthalmology either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Pointing out the understanding and ties of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan, the Friday imam of Ahvaz said: The two nations of Iran and Pakistan feel a unity. We feel that we belong to you and you belong to us. Your positions in regards to the issues of Palestine and Afghanistan are also those that we hold, and we hope that the imposed war will end with the victory of the Islamic combatants as soon as possible so that we will be able to pursue these positions and our strategies.

In this meeting, Dr Vazirian, the director of the regional health organization of Khuzestan Province said: Considering that this organization, due to the needs of the area, is trying to create an ophthalmology division with 80 beds. The needed cadre will be provided consultations with the members of the Pakistan ophthalmology group.

Interview With the Supervisor of the Ophthalmology Group

Dr Razavi, the Pakistan ophthalmologist in charge of the medical delegation team, in an interview with the correspondent of the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT OF AHVAZ, referred to the depth of the barbaric actions of the Ba'thists in the city of Hoveyzeh and said:

I have seen cities in the world which were destroyed as a result of war, but such total devastation and such rapid reconstruction I had never seen. This destruction and reconstruction strongly affected me and also filled me with admiration. This manner of work can be a model for the whole world of what reconstruction can be done during war with a good program. This shows the depth of the will of the nation and shows that if a nation has determination, even if everything it has is destroyed, it can reconstruct the ruins.

This Pakistan doctor continued: What I have witnessed during my stay in Iran is the depth of the spirituality of Islam in your society. If they bring an Iraqi wounded person to your hospitals, you treat and nurse him in the best manner.

In this interview, Dr Razavi, the Pakistan doctor, referred to the spiritual change which has been created in the people of Iran, praised their efforts and activities in the cities behind the front and the steadfastness and resistance of the people, and added:

This itself encouraged our group to work even harder.

In another part of his speech, this Pakistan doctor emphatically condemned those who use and those who give Iraq chemical weapons and said: The manufacture and use of chemical bombs is not a small, simple matter that the regime of Iraq itself can accomplish. The great powers who make these weapons have placed

chemical bombs at the disposal of Iraq. In addition to Iraq, these great powers must also be condemned.

In concluding his interview with our correspondent, Dr Razavi, the Pakistan ophthalmologist, said in connection with their aims and motivations to come to Iran:

I have always despised the Christian missionaries who pursued colonialist purposes under the guise of religion and medical aid. Hence, 25 years ago, we began our work in a small town and showed that we Muslims are also able to take medical aid to the farthest areas of the world through our efforts and serve the people who need it.

It should be pointed out that these Pakistan physicians have been able to examine 3,000 patients and to carry out 99 eye operations on patients during their stay in Khuzestan.

10,000

CSO: 4640/122

BRIEFS

KILLING OF FRIDAY IMAM--Armed fighters yesterday killed Mullah Ruhollah Reza Rashidi, Khomeyni's representative in Piramshahr. He was one of the agents of the Khomeyni regime who used to advertise its criminality. On many occasions he was warned by armed fighters to stop his cooperation with the criminal and anti-Iranian Khomeyni regime. However, he continued to receive huge amounts of money while holding the position of Friday Imam of Piranshahr and his cooperation with the dictatorship and reactionary regime. Armed fighters condemned Mullah Reza Rashidi to death and yesterday gave him what he deserved. [Text] [(Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 17 Nov 84 GF]

SECRET EXECUTIONS--Arcane executions continue in the Islamic Republic's prisons. According to a report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, three supporters of the Mojahidin-e Khalq [MKO] named Mehdi 'Alizadeh, Ahmad Sha'bani, and Teymur Ja'fari were executed in Evin prison this month but the Khomeyni regime's radio did not broadcast the news. In addition, 8 persons were executed in Rasht prison and 23 others were secretly executed in other districts. According to the report, 15 persons were sent to the firing squads in Lahijan, Khomam, and Rasht and the Khomeyni regime informed the family members after the execution to claim the bodies of their offspring from the coroner's office but refrained from announcing the names of the executed or the (?charges) in the regime's mass media. [Text] [(Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Nov 84 GF]

CSO: 4640/133

COMMENTARY ON REAGAN'S REELECTION: MATURE TIES URGED

GF191022 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Four More Years"]

[Text] The American electorate, in a ringing endorsement of Ronald Reagan, has sent the incumbent president back to the White House for 4 more years. Mr Reagan, who at 73 is the oldest serving American president, has won a not unexpected sweeping triumph. Riding on a crest of popularity which banked heavily on Mr Reagan's person as well as the conservative ethos which has gained ground in America in the last 4 years, the Republican Party has trounced the Democrat Walter Mondale. It is a sad commentary on the American political system that despite it being an open, representative and democratic process, it allows very few persons of calibre and competence to reach the top. The choice between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale was hardly a real option for the American electorate. Ronald Reagan, despite the bungle in Lebanon, Cold War rhetoric with the Soviet Union and attempts to destabilise an assertive state in Latin America, could still have the temerity to proclaim that his administration had "restored America's prestige in the world." Regrettably, this reassertion of American manhood internationally was applauded by a people who welcomed the U.S. conquest of puny Grenada as a "victory."

Conversely, Walter Mondale tried shamelessly to outdo Ronald Reagan in stirring up jingoism. Even his ploy of selecting an attractive female politician as a running mate failed to generate the kind of enthusiasm so necessary for him to pose an effective challenge to Ronald Reagan.

Observers outside America will be keen to see whether Ronald Reagan in his second term will remain the stubborn Cold War politician or will he be willing to switch roles and don the outfit of a statesman who knows that militarism and interventionism cannot lay the foundation for a more peaceful and equitable world. To meet this goal, free from the pressures generated by domestic interest groups, Ronald Reagan will have to match deeds of peace with his words of piety. That would include cessation of attempts to destabilise assertive Third World countries like Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba and Libya, pursuit of a balanced policy in the Middle East and serious attempts to encourage a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan. Obviously, the international political climate will have to improve for such steps to be meaningful and in that, the relationship between the two Super Powers is crucial.

Like all his other Republican predecessors, Ronald Reagan has been seen by policy makers in Islamabad as a friend of Pakistan. Historically, this "friendship" has remained one-sided and in moments of crunch for Pakistan, Washington has never extended substantive support. The important thing to understand for policy makers in Pakistan is that a relationship with a Super Power almost always involves a certain quid pro quo and that the guiding factor is not some altruistic emotion but the national interest. In the case of Pakistan--American relations, it needs to be clearly understood that Pakistan's interest in, say, pursuing the path of nuclear independence and in seeking a speedy political settlement in Afghanistan does not conform with the Reagan administration's world view. Before exulting over Reagan's victory we hope that our policy makers will realise this basic home truth so that we can look forward to a more mature and stable relationship with the United States where expectations on both sides do not remain too high.

CSO: 4600/90

COMMENTARY ON REAGAN SECOND TERM

GF160830 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Nov 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Reagan's Second Term--Outlook for World Peace"]

[Text] President Reagan's resounding victory in the American election is expected to lead to a new and more active phase in the country's foreign policy. As it is, the presidential election year in the United States is a period of slow-down in diplomacy when new foreign policy moves are generally not made.

Now that the president has been reelected by a landslide which his party is interpreting as a mandate for his policies, it is logical that he should want to take new initiatives with more vigour than before. However, what augurs well for world peace and stability is that President Reagan appears to be more inclined to work for international understanding and conciliation in his second term than was the case in his first. Although it would be unrealistic to expect a radical change in the broad directions of American policy, a shift in style and atmospherics cannot be ruled out now that President Reagan feels he can negotiate with Moscow from a position of strength--both internal and external.

Indications of such a shift are clearly available. Twice within the first 2 days of his reelection, the American leader spoke about the need for a summit meeting with the Soviet president, Mr Chernenko, and for reviving the arms control talks. Since the Soviet Leadership has also been hinting lately that it would wish to review its ties with Washington if the United States made the first move, the stalemate in superpower relations might be about to end.

The main areas in which the United States is beleived to be interested in taking fresh initiatives are relations with the Soviet Union, arms control and the Middle East. Since the Soviet forces entered Afghanistan in 1979, relations between Washington and Moscow have been at a low ebb. But they have deteriorated markedly since 1981 when President Reagan came to the White House and proceeded to adopt an overly hard-line stance vis-a-vis the Kremlin. Developments in Central America, Poland and Afghanistan and the South Korean airline incident only helped intensify tensions between the two superpowers.

The lack of communications between them at the highest level has been total. President Reagan has been the first American head of state in the last 4 decades

who has not had any personal contact with the first rank of Soviet leaders. It is not unlikely that the U.S. president in his second and final term might not feel the same compulsion to project America as a decisively powerful state as he did 4 years earlier when he entered office with the election pledge of giving new strength and vitality to the United States as a superpower and make it ascendant in every area of competing interest.

If there is a move towards defusing tension between Washington and Moscow, some kind of bargaining leading to an informal understanding between them on some of the major world issues would be involved. On arms control, there have been clear indications that a dialogue might be revived. Its scope and format might not be precisely identical with that of the intermediate nuclear force talks of Geneva which were broken off last November, but negotiations between the United States and the USSR on arms control could be reopened in other forums.

Of equal significance will be the direction President Reagan's policy takes in the Middle East. Although at present there is not much movement on the Arab-Israeli diplomatic front in the region, apart from some feeble moves in Lebanon, the diplomatic realignment which has taken place in the Arab world could pave the way for another peace initiative. With Jordan's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cairo and the emergence of the moderate elements in the PLO who have aligned themselves with the conservative forces in the Middle East, the region appears set for another round of diplomacy under the American aegis.

In this context, one cannot, however, reckon without the growing demand by Arab countries for a meaningful Soviet participation in any future Middle East peace negotiations. At the same time, it would be unrealistic to believe that President Reagan will be entirely free of the pressures generated by American policies and the congress in formulating a new Middle East policy designed for a peace settlement. Much would, however, also depend on his personal breadth of vision, statesmanship and perception of world peace. All of which means whether in his second and final term President Reagan will be fired by an ambition to raise a structure of world peace and see it consolidated by the time he lays down the mantle of his office.

CSO: 4600/90

NWFP GOVERNOR TALKS ABOUT REFUGEES ELECTION SABOTAGE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Murtaza Malik: "Al-Zulfiqar Trying to Sabotage Elections--General Haq"]

[Text] Peshawar, 28 October: Governor Fazle Haq has stated that Al-Zulfiqar had re-established itself in Kabul and resumed acts of sabotage against Pakistan from that soil.

In an informal chat with newsmen here today he said that the Bhutto brothers had also arrived there and eight to nine groups of saboteurs had been given certain targets on this side of the border, but we are keeping a strict vigil and will deal with them sternly." [Quotation marks as published] Their main task, he believed, would be to plant bombs and assassinate certain people and this could obviously be an attempt to sabotage the process of elections.

Asked whether Al-Zulfiqar was involved in the bomb blast in a local cinema last Wednesday the Governor said that the matter was still being investigated and a number of people were being interrogated but it had not yet been established as to who had really done it. He said that Al-Zulfiqar reported back in Kabul about 2 months back and the presence of Bhutto brothers there had also been reported.

Replying to a question the general said that the situation in North Waziristan was now well under control after a section of tribesmen had killed seven notorious outlaws, including Nasibi. These outlaws, he said, had kidnapped 25 persons and committed murders and robberies. The government had earlier warned the tribals against the activities of these outlaws but they had expressed their inability to take action. Consequently the government had to initiate action in which 7 outlaws were killed and 11 were held. The Tribesmen had also demanded compensation but it had been refused. The government, he said, would not tolerate such activities and in future too such elements would be dealt with in the same way. Parleys with the tribal representatives were now in progress, he said, and added that the possibility of feeding of some of the tribesmen from across the border could not be ruled out.

Governor Haq said inquiries had proved that the Afghan refugees were in no way involved in the incidents where people had reportedly been hammered or gassed to death. Such rumours, he said, had been spread by vested interests. The influx of Afghan refugees, he said, was a continuing process but the number was likely to be reduced in winter when the passes are blocked due to snowfall but as a result of Soviet reprisals the refugees did not enter Pakistan from various points as had been in the case of Birkot recently.

COMMENTARY ON INDIRA GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION

GF191036 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Assassination in Delhi"]

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination at the hands of two of her Sikh body guards has brutally cut short the illustrious career of one of India's most eminent politicians and the Third World's outstanding statesperson. Mrs Gandhi's sad and sudden demise marks the end of an era in India's politics. The Nehru family which left an indelible mark on the region's politics for over half a century played a leading role in guiding India's destiny. As a woman and as a scion of the Nehru family, Mrs Gandhi inherited the mantle of leadership from her late father, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and went on to become the helmswoman of the world's most populous democracy.

Any charismatic political figure almost always evokes feelings of love and hate. Those who loved her and who helped her to win the office of the prime minister of India through three fair and free elections viewed her as a tenacious fighter and a leader of great courage. Her detractors saw an authoritarian streak in her which was often exemplified by a ruthless determination in achieving her objectives. Although she was often accused by her opponents of employing undemocratic practices as prime minister of India, it went to the credit of Mrs Gandhi that she made a graceful exit from this position of power when she lost the elections in 1977 and in another tribute to her resilience and tenacity she staged a political come-back through the electoral process of 1980.

People in Pakistan also viewed the leader of our neighbouring country with mixed feelings. They remembered her role during the 1971 crisis of Pakistan when she midwifed the caesarian birth of Bangladesh. And then there was her role during 1972 Simla agreement where she came across as a stateswoman who desired an equitable and peaceful relationship with Pakistan. We hope that her successors will inherit this legacy of peace and that India as the largest country in South Asia and as head of the Non-aligned Movement will take the initiative in forging harmonious relations among all states of South Asia. The inner and inextinguishable strength of democracy, absent in so many Third World countries, may help India recover her poise and bearing sooner than most expect. While this fact has ensured a smooth succession to Mrs Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi will no doubt find it difficult to fill the void which has been created by the departure of a personality of her stature.